

JOINT RESOLUTIONS

Presently, the Health and Welfare Program which covers railroad employees permits benefits to an employee and his family for one additional month after his retirement. The provisions of Medicare are not available to persons covered by railroad retirement and Social Security until they reach the age of 65, unless they are totally and permanently disabled under the terms of the Social Security Act.

In addition to the many other complex problems facing this Nation, one of the more serious is the rapidly escalating cost of medical care. Those persons who do not have the advantage of coverage under Medicare, disability, or hospital plans affording sufficient coverage and who have the option provided to railroad workers 60 years of age and 30 years service must make the decision as to whether they should retire or continue working.

The railroad industry, like most industries in this country, furloughs employees on a seniority basis. Therefore, unless employees meeting the criteria of age 60 and 30 years service elect to retire on full pension, it is the younger employees who will be furloughed because of lack of seniority and who are in a more vulnerable position, generally speaking, because of their age and family status.

If railroad employees age 60 and 30 years service could be assured of coverage under the Medicare program to avoid the crushing burdens of medical expenses which are more prevalent among older persons, it is anticipated they would be more likely to take advantage of the pension benefits. This in turn would make it possible for younger workers to achieve more seniority in line of service and avoid being furloughed and without income; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the 94th Congress is requested to properly amend the federal Medicare provisions to reduce eligibility to age 60, if an employee has accepted retirement; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to Representative Al Ullman, Chairman of Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives, Rayburn Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; and to the following Senators and Congressmen from the State of Maryland: Charles McC. Mathias, Jr. and J. Glenn Beall, Jr., Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; Robert E. Bauman, Clarence D. Long, Paul S. Sarbanes, Marjorie S. Holt, Gladys N. Spellman, Goodloe E. Byron, Parren J. Mitchell and Gilbert Gude, House Office Building,