ENROLLED

Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 90

BY REPRESENTATIVE AUSTIN BADON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to provide a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) or some alternate benefit increase for Social Security recipients as soon as practicable.

WHEREAS, there are nearly sixty million people in the United States who are receiving Social Security benefits in 2011; and

WHEREAS, the maximum benefit for an individual of full retirement age is only two thousand three hundred sixty-six dollars per month, but the average benefit for 2011 is significantly lower at one thousand one hundred seventy-seven dollars per month; and

WHEREAS, COLAs help Social Security recipients, many of whom are living in poverty, keep pace financially with the escalating costs of living; and

WHEREAS, no COLAs have been granted to Social Security recipients since 2008; and

WHEREAS, federal law provides that a COLA shall be granted for any given year in the amount of the percentage increase, if any, in the average Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for the third quarter of the previous year over the average CPI-W for the third quarter of the last year in which a COLA was granted; and

WHEREAS, under current federal law, a COLA cannot be granted to Social Security recipients for 2011 because there has been no such increase in the CPI-W between the third quarter of 2008 and the third quarter of 2010; and

WHEREAS, even though there was no such increase in the CPI-W between the third quarter of 2008 and the third quarter of 2010, many Social Security recipients are still having trouble keeping up with the increasing costs of goods and services; and

WHEREAS, 2011 has seen a steady increase in the CPI-W, and an increase in such sectors as gasoline (27.5% increase), food (2.9% increase), and medical care (2.7% increase); and

WHEREAS, congress has previously intervened to provide a one-time Economic Recovery Payment of two hundred fifty dollars to Social Security recipients in 2009 when no COLA was payable.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to provide a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) or some alternate benefit increase for Social Security recipients as soon as practicable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE