

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 10—Committee on  
Health and Human Services

FILE NUMBER.....

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION—Urging Congress to amend the Social Security Act to modify certain reductions in social security benefits that are required for spouses and surviving spouses who are also receiving certain federal, state or local government pensions.

WHEREAS, In 1977, Congress enacted the Government Pension Offset (GPO) to treat government pensions and survivor annuities as if they were social security benefits; and

WHEREAS, Congress amended the GPO in 1983 by enacting a provision requiring that the social security benefits of a person receiving a federal, state or local government pension from work not covered by social security be offset or reduced by an amount that is equal to two-thirds of the government pension; and

WHEREAS, The GPO can affect any retiree who receives a federal, state or local government pension and social security benefits, but primarily affects widows and widowers eligible for spousal benefits; and

WHEREAS, Since its inception, more than 305,000 retired federal, state and local government employees have had their benefits fully or partially reduced by the GPO; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 70 percent of those persons affected by the GPO are women, of whom more than 89,000 are widows; and

WHEREAS, Statistics show that the average loss in retirement benefits for those persons affected by the GPO is nearly \$350 per month, with widows experiencing the highest average monthly loss of approximately \$477; and

WHEREAS, Unintentionally, the GPO has harmed a disproportionate number of women who are federal, state and local government retirees with moderate and lower incomes by dropping many of them below the poverty line in their retirement years; and

WHEREAS, During the 107th session of Congress, Representative William Jefferson of Louisiana introduced H.R. 664, a bill that would modify the GPO by allowing spouses and surviving spouses who are also receiving certain federal, state or local government pensions to receive a minimum of \$1,200 per month before the two-thirds offset could be imposed; and

WHEREAS, This targeted reform is designed to help the most serious victims of the GPO, those federal, state and local government retirees with the lowest government pensions who are primarily women; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY AND SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the members of the Nevada Legislature hereby urge Congress to amend the Social Security Act to provide that the reductions in social security benefits which are required for spouses and surviving spouses who are also receiving certain federal, state or local government pensions must be equal to the amount by which two-thirds of the total amount of the combined monthly benefit and monthly pension exceeds \$1,200; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the passage of H.R. 664 will restore fairness and equity to the most vulnerable federal, state and local government retirees at a relatively low cost of approximately \$2 billion over 5 years, thereby entitling those persons who have worked diligently their entire lives to reap the fruits of their labor after retirement; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United States as the presiding officer of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.