

HOUSE
RESOLUTION No. ____

Introduced by: Stilwell, Crooks, Denbo

A HOUSE RESOLUTION to recommend to the United States Congress and Executive Branch to enact reforms to the Coal Act to ensure stability in health care benefits of retired coal miners.

Whereas, Indiana is a coal-producing and coal-consuming state that has benefitted tremendously from the hard, dangerous work of now-retired coal miners;

Whereas, the United States government entered into a contract with the coal miners in 1946 that created the United Mine Workers of America Health and Retirement Funds;

Whereas, this contract was signed in the White House in a ceremony with President Harry Truman;

Whereas, a federal commission established by U.S. Secretary of Labor Elizabeth Dole concluded in 1990: "Retired coal miners have legitimate expectations of health care benefits for life; that was the promise they received during their working lives and that is how they planned their



retirement years. That commitment should be honored."

Whereas, the Coal Act reiterated the promise of lifetime health benefits for retired coal miners and their dependents;

Whereas, Congress intended the Coal Act to remedy problems with the provisions and funding of health care benefits for retired miners, allow for sufficient operating assets for those health care plans, and provide for the continuation of privately financed self-sufficient programs for the delivery of health care benefits to beneficiaries of such plans;

Whereas, certain court decisions have eroded the financial structure that Congress put in place under the Coal Act; and

Whereas, these court decisions have placed the continued provision of health benefits to retired coal miners in jeopardy.

Therefore:

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

SECTION 1. The House of Representatives of the Indiana General Assembly urges the Congress and the Executive Branch of the United States to work together to reform the financial structure of the Coal Act to ensure that retired coal miners continue to receive the health care benefits they were promised;

SECTION 2. The Principal Clerk of the House of Representative shall send a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States and to each member of the Indiana Congressional delegation.

