

## Calendar No. 554

104TH CONGRESS }  
2d Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT  
104-345

### RECOGNIZING AND ENCOURAGING THE CONVENING OF A NATIONAL SILVER HAIREd CONGRESS

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JULY 31, 1996.—Ordered to be printed

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Mrs. KASSEBAUM, from the Committee on Labor and Human  
Resources, submitted the following

### REPORT

[To accompany S. Con. Res. 52]

The Committee on Labor and Human Resources, to which was referred the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 52) to recognize and encourage the convening of a National Silver Haired Congress, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the concurrent resolution do pass.

#### INTRODUCTION

The resolution, Senate Concurrent Resolution 52, recognizes and encourages the convening of a National Silver Haired Congress in the District of Columbia. A National Silver Haired Congress would be modeled after the U.S. Congress. It would take up legislation on issues affecting seniors, such as consumer protection, crime prevention, health care, housing, and long-term care. The bills it passes would be presented to national legislators.

The National Silver Haired Congress organization is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, educational institution. The yearly event will have no cost to the Federal Government. The event would not be held in the Capitol or in Senate or House office buildings.

#### PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

Many States have encouraged and facilitated the convening of senior citizen legislative and advocacy bodies. These bodies have provided older Americans with the opportunity to express their concerns by making recommendations to State governments.

A National Silver Haired Congress, with representatives from each State, would provide a national forum for issues concerning seniors. The nonpartisan body would propose grassroots solutions to the concerns of seniors. Since the population of older Americans is growing faster than any other age group, it is more important than ever to encourage their input in the political process.

#### HISTORY OF LEGISLATION

This resolution passed the Senate and the House of Representatives in 1994. However, since each resolution was not voted on by the other Chamber, neither was technically adopted. With the intent of getting the resolution formally adopted, Senator Mikulski, along with 42 other cosponsors, reintroduced the bill on April 17, 1996. It was marked up by the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources on July 17, 1996, by a voice vote.

The organizers of the National Silver Haired Congress have decided to go ahead and hold the first annual Congress in February of 1997. The organizers believe they have the endorsement of Congress, even though the resolution wasn't technically adopted.

#### TABULATION OF VOTES CAST IN COMMITTEE

The resolution was passed by voice vote.

#### COST ESTIMATE

There is no cost.

#### REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT

The committee has determined that there will be minimal increases in the regulatory burden imposed by this bill.

