

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 15, 1977

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Washington D.C. --- West Virginia Congressman Nick J. Rahall, (D-4th), has voiced his strong support for legislation which would protect older Americans from age discrimination and mandatory retirement.

H.R. 5383, a measure of which Congressman Rahall is a co-sponsor, is to be considered by the House of Representatives on Sept. 15.

Rahall explained what this legislation does for older Americans, "This bill bars mandatory retirement and other age discrimination in federal employment, including job advancement and hiring." Congressman Rahall went on to say, "HR 5383 extends the protection from mandatory retirement for workers in private business, from sixty-five to seventy years of age."

Congressman Rahall pointed out that President Carter has also expressed his support for this legislation. "The President has stated that we need to change the laws and policies that force retirement of older people who are willing and able to work, and I agree with President Carter completely on this issue."

Bi-partisan support for this measure has been evident during its consideration by Congress, Rahall observed. "The bill was approved 33-0 by the Education and Labor Committee, and the Select Committee on Aging unanimously supports the bill."

"Mandatory retirement cuts-off productive Americans from their livelihood, squanders their talents, scars their health, strains an already overburdened Social Security system, and drives many elderly persons into poverty and despair," Congressman Rahall said.

"Age is a poor indicator of ability to perform a job," Rahall pointed out, "in fact the Labor Department reports that older persons are just as, if not more competent than younger workers."

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