

News  
From \_\_\_\_\_

# Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 30, 1986CONTACT: Jerry Burkot  
202-225-3452SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME, BANKRUPTCY RESTRICTIONS  
PASSED BY HOUSE, RAHALL SAYS

Washington, D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) said today that the House of Representatives has passed legislation this week that will have a positive impact on the citizens of West Virginia, particularly a bill which will improve the Supplemental Security Income program.

"The House has taken a step to help the people of West Virginia through its passage of the S.S.I. Improvement Amendments," Rep. Rahall said. "This legislation will revamp and greatly improve the Supplemental Security Income program, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of a program upon which so many West Virginians have become dependent." The bill will provide for the payment of retroactive S.S.I. benefits to the spouse of a deceased recipient; to continue Medicaid eligibility for disabled widows who lose S.S.I. eligibility, as well as many other provisions.

The House also passed a bill which will protect retired employees' benefits from bankruptcies filed by their companies. A key provision of the bill ensures that retiree benefits receive equal protection as those of active employees in the case of a bankruptcy filing.

"We recently witnessed the bankruptcy filing of the LTV Corporation and the cruel and callous attempt to deprive its retirees of their well-deserved health and retirement benefits, some of whom were United Mineworkers of America members in West Virginia," Rep. Rahall observed. "This legislation will help to protect our retirees from being the unwilling and innocent victims of bankruptcies."

Also, the House acted to prohibit the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for 18 months from implementing regulations which relate to the declaration process, eligibility for assistance and non-federal responsibility for major disasters. "FEMA had sought to shift the burden of major disasters from the federal to the state and local level," Rep. Rahall said. "This is totally unacceptable, particularly at a time when so many local governments in West Virginia are reeling under the burden dumped on them by the Reagan Administration."

These bills will all go to the Senate for consideration.