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## *House of Representatives*

**PASS THE OLDER AMERICANS  
FREEDOM TO WORK ACT, NOW**

**HON. NICK JOE RAHALL II**

**OF WEST VIRGINIA**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

***Wednesday, May 29, 1991***

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join with well over 200 of my colleagues in cosponsoring the Older Americans Freedom to Work Act.

The Social Security earnings limit is an outrageous attack on the financial well-being of this Nation's senior citizens. Older Americans deserve the right to be financially independent. Penalizing an individual by linking Social Security benefits to earned income is both unfair and wrong. It amounts to a massive income tax on beneficiaries who wish to continue to be active in the work force.

Social Security benefits are not a privilege; they are a "right," earned during the course of

a worker's career. To tell a person that because of age they must either quit working or lose their prescribed rights is an injustice. As the population of America continues to age with the maturation of the baby boomers, our seniors are going to become an important national resource, if we will encourage them to remain active in the daily business of our country. H.R. 967 takes a crucial step in that direction by repealing the earnings limit placed on Social Security beneficiaries.

Last Congress this legislation collected 265 cosponsors from across the political spectrum. So far in the early months of the 102d Congress, H.R. 967 has collected a bipartisan list of 235 Members of the House of Representatives. With this kind of broad support it is time for the Congress to act on this important issue.

American's elderly citizens deserve the right to continue in the work force without facing the loss of their important Social Security benefits.