

WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER, Governor

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the State of Maryland urges the President and the Congress of the United States to take the necessary action to reconsider and amend the Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act of 1988 ~~to spread~~ *to relieve the elderly from provisions of this tax burden by more evenly spreading* the cost of catastrophic health insurance among all ~~Medicare-insured taxpayers, and to control the costs of prescription drugs in anticipation of Medicare's coverage of prescription drugs in 1991~~; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of Legislative Reference to the Honorable George Bush, President of the United States, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20500; the Honorable J. Danforth Quayle, Vice President of the United States, The Capitol Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; and the Honorable Jim Wright, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of Legislative Reference to the Maryland Congressional Delegation: Senators Paul S. Sarbanes and Barbara A. Mikulski, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; and Representatives Royden P. Dyson, Helen Delich Bentley, Benjamin L. Cardin, C. Thomas McMillen, Steny H. Hoyer, Beverly B. Byron, Kweisi Mfume, and Constance A. Morella, House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Signed May 19, 1989.

No. 9

(House Joint Resolution No. 19)

A House Joint Resolution concerning

Extension of the Steel Voluntary Restraint Arrangements

FOR the purpose of stating the intent of the General Assembly of Maryland in support of extension of America's steel Voluntary Restraint Arrangements program for 5 years.

WHEREAS, Extension of the steel Voluntary Restraint Arrangements (VRAs) will provide America's steel industry with a necessary, yet measured, defense against conditions abroad that have not changed much since the VRA program was first instituted in 1984 (e.g. foreign producers still receive massive subsidies, from their governments, foreign steel markets are still tightly restricted to imports, foreign producers still engage in pervasive "dumping" of steel, and there is still a serious structural imbalance between world steel supply and demand on the order of at least 100 million tons); and

WHEREAS, A five-year extension will give the United States government the time it needs to negotiate an end to these ongoing trade-distorting conditions abroad, and the United States cannot "unilaterally disarm" in steel (by terminating the VRAs) until such negotiations have been successfully concluded; and

WHEREAS, VRAs have enabled domestic steel producers to take significant steps to improve their international competitiveness — costs are down 35 percent since 1982, labor productivity is up 40 percent and quality has been greatly improved; and