

As Introduced

**131st General Assembly
Regular Session
2015-2016**

S. C. R. No. 17

Senator Gentile

Cosponsors: Senators Yuko, Cafaro, Skindell, Thomas, Tavares, Schiavoni

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge the Congress of the United States to enact the 1
Miners Protection Act of 2015. 2

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF OHIO (THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING):

WHEREAS, The Miners Protection Act of 2015 (S. 1714) is 3
important federal legislation that re-purposes excess money 4
previously designated for use by the United Mine Workers of 5
America (UMWA) for coal miner retiree healthcare programs and 6
allows these funds to be used both for retiree healthcare and to 7
preserve coal miner pensions. S. 1714, if enacted, would 8
guarantee the solvency of these pension plans; and 9

WHEREAS, S. 1714 ensures that UMWA retirees who lose 10
benefits following the bankruptcy or insolvency of the retiree's 11
employer are eligible for an existing benefit plan established 12
under the bill; and 13

WHEREAS, S. 1714 is bipartisan legislation that protects 14
healthcare benefits and pensions for approximately 120,000 15
American coal miners and retirees who are threatened by 16
difficulties in the coal mining industry; and 17

WHEREAS, Without this legislation, the UMWA pension fund 18
could go bankrupt. As a result, the burden of paying out 19
pensions and healthcare costs of UMWA retirees would shift to 20

the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC). The additional 21
burden on the PBGC could be catastrophic, threatening the 22
pensions of millions of American steelworkers, construction 23
workers, and others; now therefore be it 24

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 131st General 25
Assembly of the State of Ohio, in adopting this resolution, urge 26
the Congress of the United States to enact S. 1714, the Miners 27
Protection Act of 2015; and be it further 28

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit duly 29
authenticated copies of this resolution to the President Pro 30
Tempore and Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker 31
and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, each 32
member of the Ohio Congressional delegation, and the news media 33
of Ohio. 34