As Introduced

136th General Assembly
Regular Session **S. C. R. No. 8**
2025-2026

Senators Weinstein, Cutrona

Cosponsors: Senators Antonio, Ingram, Craig, Smith

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge the Congress of the United States to pass H.R. 971, known as The Reducing Accidents in Locomotives (RAIL) Act.

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

WHEREAS, In 2023, East Palestine, Ohio, experienced a devastating train derailment that contaminated the area's air, soil, and water with toxic chemicals; and

WHEREAS, The residents of East Palestine are still experiencing the effects of the derailment and the chemical contamination resulting from it; and

WHEREAS, More than 12,000 cities, towns, and villages in the United States have rail tracks running through their boundaries and, since 2020, more than 4,000 trains have derailed in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Following the train derailment, Ohio's U.S. Senators and members of the U.S. House of Representatives introduced bipartisan rail safety bills that failed to become law. One of those bills was entitled the RAIL Act; and

WHEREAS, The RAIL Act was recently reintroduced in

Congress. The RAIL Act will increase inspections on all trains, strengthen safety placard requirements that assist emergency responders in identifying hazardous materials, and increase maximum penalties for violations of rail safety regulations; and

WHEREAS, The RAIL Act will direct the Secretary of Transportation to promulgate new regulations to improve rail safety based on the findings of an investigation conducted by the National Transportation Safety Board and the Federal Railroad Administration; and

WHEREAS, The RAIL Act will require a minimum of two-person crews for all Class I freight and passenger trains; and now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 136th General Assembly of the State of Ohio, urge the Congress of the United States to pass H.R. 971, otherwise known as The RAIL Act, to ensure the safety of American families and prevent future tragedies; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the President Pro Tempore and Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Ohio Congressional delegation, and the news media of Ohio.