

Koehler resolution to call attention to healthcare and savings crisis in Illinois and America

The need to ensure a fiscally safe and physically healthy future for our seniors is a need that has been ignored for far too long. In order to assist with this problem, I recently filed an important resolution in the Illinois Senate designed to call attention to what I feel will be an essential problem as we move into the future

Senate Joint Resolution 95 represents the Illinois General Assembly's support for AARP's **Divided We Fail** effort. The intent of the resolution is to show Illinois commitment to the effort to bring together Americans who believe that health care and lifetime financial security are two of the most pressing domestic issues facing this nation.

Statistics show that most workers feel they do not have enough options when it comes to saving for the future. Most employers have stopped offering traditional pension benefits and have yet to come up with an alternative. Fewer than half of all workers have not signed up for a 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement savings plans. Nearly half of all Americans believe that they have not saved enough for retirement.

60 percent of Americans are concerned about their ability to afford health insurance over the next year while 37 percent have had difficulty paying bills in order to pay for health care costs now. Social Security provides the majority of the income for a majority of the elderly and we have yet to come to a solid resolution of the Social Security crisis that will affect millions more in the near future.

Partisan politics and ideological gridlock have divided our leaders and prevented reasonable, common sense and balanced solutions for far too long. If the Illinois General Assembly passes this resolution, they will be on record as standing with AARP's **Divided We Fail** effort to amplify the voices of millions of Americans who believe that health care and lifetime financial security are one of the most pressing domestic issues facing our nation.

We need to stand together to provide a real plan of action and get commitments from our leaders to ensure that all Americans have access to affordable, quality health care and peace of mind about their lifetime financial security.