

## 1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States, in its  
3 passage of the Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996,  
4 directed the Secretary of Labor to commission a study on the  
5 feasibility of the establishment of a pension plan for  
6 professional boxers; and

7 WHEREAS, Congress, in its passage of the Muhammad Ali  
8 Boxing Reform Act of 1999, provided statutory protection of  
9 the contractual rights of professional boxers and prohibited  
10 their exploitation in promotion and management arrangements;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, A study, commissioned by the Secretary of Labor,  
13 was completed by the Segal Company in December 1997,  
14 providing the necessary guidance for Congress to facilitate  
15 the creation of a qualified pension plan for professional  
16 boxing; and

17 WHEREAS, Professional boxing, which is structured on a  
18 contractual basis, does not comport with current United  
19 States pension laws, which are structured based on  
20 employer-employee relationships; and

21 WHEREAS, The establishment of a pension plan for  
22 professional boxers must be mandatory in order to be  
23 effectuated, and should be funded through boxer contributions  
24 from fight purses as well as ticket and broadcast revenues;  
25 and

26 WHEREAS, The nature of professional boxing strongly  
27 indicates that a pension plan for boxers is best established  
28 on a federal level to ensure the greatest possible inclusion;  
29 and

30 WHEREAS, The National Association of Attorneys General  
31 has recommended that Congress establish a mandatory qualified

1 pension plan, including immediate steps to implement a  
2 transitional plan for the neediest retired boxers; and

3 WHEREAS, A pension plan would greatly aid professional  
4 boxers, many of whom end hard, demanding careers suffering  
5 from pugilistic dementia, alcoholism, drug addition,  
6 financial problems and homelessness, to retire with some  
7 measure of dignity and a modicum of security; and

8 WHEREAS, Professional boxers are the least cohesive of  
9 the professional athletes (team or individual sports) and are  
10 not represented by labor unions, as exist in the  
11 entertainment industry, and are not positioned to establish a  
12 pension plan on their own; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL  
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF  
15 REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING HEREIN, that we urge the members  
16 of Congress, pursuant to its study commissioned under the  
17 Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996, to develop a  
18 framework for the establishment of a mandatory qualified  
19 pension plan for professional boxing; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
21 delivered to the members of the Illinois Congressional  
22 Delegation, the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives,  
23 the President pro tempore of the U.S. Senate, the Secretary  
24 of the U.S. Department of Labor, and the Executive Director  
25 of the National Association of Attorneys General and to  
26 former United States Lightweight Champion Johnny Lira as  
27 representative of the retired boxers residing in the State of  
28 Illinois.