

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 17-159

RE: C.R. NO. 17-152/H&SA

SUBJECT: TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF MR. JEFFERSON M. TIMOTHY TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OCTOBER 03, 2012

The Honorable Isaac V. Figir
Speaker, Seventeenth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
Fifth Regular Session 2012

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Health & Social Affairs, to which was referred C.R. No. 17-152, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF MR. JEFFERSON M. TIMOTHY TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS.",

begs leave to report as follows:

Your Committee understands the importance that Social Security benefits play in the lives of our citizens and is committed to ensuring that our Social Security Administration is financially viable for generations to come. In order for the Social Security Administration to continue to provide these necessary benefits its Board of Directors must be able to operate at the highest levels. Therefore, an extended period of service for a good board member, one who has an in-depth knowledge of the relevant issues, would be in the best interests of our country. It is, therefore, recommended that the above named nominee be confirmed as soon as possible to allow the Social Security Administration Board of Directors the necessary skill and experience to work on the important issues it must address.

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Your Committee reviewed the qualifications of all of the nominees for all the National boards of directors, including this nominee, extensively at the time of their initial confirmation. There is no further need to do so at this time, except to say that this nominee has served on the Board of Directors for the Social Security Administration for the State of Kosrae in the past and is a qualified candidate for the position. Your Committee has not received any communication that would cast doubt on the performance or integrity of the nominee.

At the public hearing for this nominee's initial confirmation your Committee met with the Social Security Administration. At that time all the Administration's representatives stated that the nominee was very qualified to serve as a member of the board. In communications with the Acting Administrator of the Social Security Administration on October 2, 2012 she confirmed that the nominee continues to have the Administration's full support and has performed well in the past. The Acting Administrator also stated that the Administration is anxious to have a full Board of Directors to transact business.

Concern was raised by members of your Committee that the State of Kosrae may have a prohibition regarding service on any board by a sitting member of the Kosrae Stated Legislature. As the nominee is a current member of the Kosrae State Legislature your Committee made further investigation into this issue. On October 2, 2012 the Committee received a communication from the Kosrae State Attorney General confirming that the prohibition regarding board service was applicable to boards of directors for Kosrae state entities only. As a state legislator the nominee does not have oversight responsibilities for the Social Security Administration, and therefore, his service on their board poses no conflict of interest. There are no legal impediments to the nominee serving as a member of the Board of Directors of the Social Security Administration.

Absent any contrary indication, your Committee believes that the nominee should be reconfirmed, and so recommends Mr. Jefferson M.

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Timothy be reconfirmed as a member of the of the Board of Directors for the Social Security Administration.

Your Committee would like to make the following amendment to C.R. No. 17-152:

1. Page 1, line 15, delete "Fourth" and insert "Fifth in lieu thereof."

Your Committee on Health & Social Affairs is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 17-152, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto, as C.R. No. 17-152, C.D.1.

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Tony H. Otto
Tony H. Otto, chairman

Yosiwo P. George, vice chairman

Tiwiter Aritos, member

Florencio S. Harper, member

/s/ Dohsis Halbert
Dohsis Halbert, member

/s/ Berney Martin
Berney Martin, member

/s/ Joseph J. Urusemal
Joseph J. Urusemal, member