

**11-043-GOV**

**TITLE: RETURNING CONGRESS TO THE PEOPLE**

**PROPOSED BY: Marshall Grange #451**

**WHEREAS:** In establishing our nation, the Founding Fathers envisioned citizen legislators who would serve their term(s) and return home and back to work in the community; and

**WHEREAS:** Our legislators have over the years made Congressional Office an occupation; and

**WHEREAS:** Our legislators have separated themselves from the public by creating their own retirement system outside of the Social Security System; have set up their own health care system outside of Medicare, and have created a system for deciding their own pay increases. And

**WHEREAS:** This behavior violates the spirit of the United States of America and the precepts of equality elegantly expressed in our Constitution. Therefore be it

**RESOLVED:** That the California State Grange and National Grange encourage Congress to reestablish its ties with the American people by taking the following actions:

1. Collect a salary only while in office with no pay as a past legislator when out of office.
2. Participates in the Social Security system, and immediately transfer all funds in the Congressional retirement fund to the Social Security system. Like all Americans, legislators can purchase their own retirement plan.
3. Abandon its current health care system and participates in Medicare, the same health care system as the American people.
4. Limit members raise in pay to the lower of Consumer Price Index or 3%. Equally abides by all laws they impose on the American people.