

Subject: H.R. 82 Bill Signing: A Monumental Moment for NARFE

Date: 2025-01-08

Message from NARFE President,

We are on the verge of a historic milestone for public servants. Today, Sunday, January 5, President Joseph Biden is expected to sign into law the Social Security Fairness Act, H.R. 82, repealing the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO). This crucial legislation was originally scheduled for signing tomorrow, but due to an impending winter storm in the Washington, D.C., area, the event has been moved up.

After decades of relentless advocacy, relief is finally in sight for millions of retired public employees. H.R. 82, which passed the House on November 12 and cleared the Senate on December 21, will bring long-awaited fairness to teachers, first responders, and countless other public servants whose Social Security benefits have been unfairly reduced for more than 40 years due to WEP and GPO.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of NARFE members, public service advocates, and our coalition partners, we stand on the cusp of a major victory. The repeal of WEP and GPO is a significant milestone in the ongoing fight for fairness and justice for our nation's public servants.

The law repeals WEP and GPO for benefits payable after December 2023. However, we await further details on the implementation. For updates from the Social Security Administration (SSA) regarding the repeal of WEP and GPO, you can check <https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/social-security-fairness-act.html>.

Beneficiaries must ensure their information is up to date with SSA, including address and direct deposit details. If you have not applied for spousal or survivor benefits due to GPO, we encourage you to apply as soon as possible to start accruing benefits. You can apply online by creating a personal Social Security account at <https://www.ssa.gov/myaccount/>.

WEP and GPO have disproportionately affected dedicated public servants who served their communities in dual roles, receiving both a government pension and qualifying for Social Security. For too long, these retirees have been denied the full benefits they rightfully earned, but that inequity is about to end.

We appreciate your support as we celebrate this momentous achievement for public servants across the country.

Sincerely,
William "Bill" Shackelford
NARFE National President
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