

June 7, 2022

Sent via e-mail

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE), I respectfully request that you cosponsor the Social Security Fairness Act of 2021, H.R. 82. This bipartisan legislation would repeal the burdensome Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO), two unfair penalties that reduce the Social Security benefits of nearly 2 million beneficiaries who dedicated their lives to public service.

The WEP and GPO take away the hard-earned income of public servants at all levels of government, including federal workers, teachers and police officers, whose work is not covered by Social Security. The GPO provides that two-thirds of the non-covered government pension offsets whatever Social Security benefits would be payable to the retired government worker as a spouse (wife, husband, widow, widower), often eliminating any spousal or survivor Social Security benefit. The WEP can result in a monthly Social Security benefit as much as \$512 less than under the regular benefit formula, drastically reducing the amount of fixed income for a retiree to live on. These penalties result in thousands of dollars in lost benefits every year simply because these workers chose to serve their nation or local community. It is time to end these penalties.

Repeal of these provisions that unduly target public servants is long overdue, and now is the time to fix these injustices. Social Security is a critical source of income for our nation's retirees, yet we have allowed needless discrimination against public workers for far too long. NARFE is glad to see that a bipartisan majority of Representatives supports ending these unjust penalties, and we hope that you will join with them in support of H.R. 82 as well.

For these reasons, I urge you to cosponsor the Social Security Fairness Act of 2021. Thank you for your consideration of our views. If you have any questions or comments, please contact NARFE's Staff Vice President of Policy and Programs, John Hatton, at 571-483-1267 or jhatton@narfe.org.

Sincerely,



Ken Thomas
National President