

July 28, 2022

***Sent via e-mail***

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE), which is dedicated to advancing the interests of the more than 5 million federal employees and retirees, as well as their spouses and survivors, I urge you to vote against special rule H. Res. 1289. This rule contains a dubious provision that would stop the counting of legislative days through September 12, thereby preventing bills placed on the House Consensus Calendar from receiving the necessary days to qualify for a floor vote. This rule should be voted down and sent back to the House Rules Committee where it can be amended without this provision.

Passing this rule would prevent bills that recently received 290 cosponsors, bills with broad bipartisan support, from receiving the vote they deserve on the House floor. This includes the Social Security Fairness Act, H.R. 82, a bill to repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO). This bill has 294 cosponsors and was recently placed on the House Consensus Calendar. But special rule H. Res. 1289 would block this bill from being voted on.

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.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote against special rule H. Res. 1289 and for the House Rules Committee to amend this rule. 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](mailto:jhatton@narfe.org).

Sincerely,

John Hatton  
NARFE Staff Vice President, Policy and Programs