

December 2, 2022

***Sent via e-mail***

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Hoyer, Majority Whip Clyburn, Chairman Neal and Ranking Member Brady:

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 write to urge passage of legislation addressing the unfair Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) before the end of the year. A vast majority of Representatives support addressing these two Social Security penalties, and now is the time to ensure that action is completed before the end of the 117th Congress.

Support for ending these penalties during this Congress is overwhelming, with a bipartisan coalition of 305 representatives cosponsoring the Social Security Fairness Act, H.R. 82, a bill that would end both the WEP and GPO. NARFE strongly supports H.R. 82 and prefers that Congress do away with the penalties in their entirety.

NARFE also supports reform efforts aimed at bringing immediate relief to retirees whose Social Security benefits are reduced and even eliminated due to the WEP and GPO. Notably, we support both Chairman Neal's Public Servants Protection and Fairness Act, H.R. 2337, and Ranking Member Brady's Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act, H.R. 5834. If it is not politically feasible to pass H.R. 82 into law this year, at the very least we urge you to include in year-end legislation either one of these remarkably similar bills – or a compromise between them.

For nearly four decades, the WEP and GPO have taken away the hard-earned income of public servants at all levels of government by penalizing federal workers, teachers, police officers, firefighters and others whose work is not covered by Social Security. The GPO regularly eliminates any Social Security spousal or survivor (wife, husband, widow, widower) benefit of public servants, and the WEP can reduce the monthly Social Security benefit by as much as \$512 compared with the normal benefit formula. These penalties result in thousands of dollars in lost benefits every year simply because these workers chose to serve their nation or local community. This type of service should not be punished, yet this is exactly what the WEP and GPO do.

These unfair situations must be rectified, and a strong majority of lawmakers agree that action is warranted. The final weeks of the 117th Congress serve as the perfect opportunity to address the two penalties, and we encourage congressional leadership and the leaders of the Committee on Ways and Means to come to an agreement on a way forward. Retirees rely on Social Security for financial security, and the total elimination or even the reduction of this critical source of income is devastating.

For these reasons, I urge you to pass legislation that addresses the WEP and GPO before the end of this Congress. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Thomas', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ken Thomas  
National President