NARFE
FEDERAL BENEFITS EXPERTS

William Shackelford
National President

Kathryn E. Hensley
National Secretary/Treasurer

January 23, 2023

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE), I respectfully ask that you reconfirm your support for ending the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) by cosponsoring the Social Security Fairness Act of 2023, H.R. 82. This bipartisan legislation would repeal 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 $558 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.

Social Security is a critical source of income for our nation's retirees, yet our nation has allowed needless discrimination against public workers for far too long. The 118th Congress presents ample opportunity to repeal these penalties. NARFE appreciates your cosponsorship of the Social Security Fairness Act in the previous Congress and asks that you cosponsor this legislation again on behalf of the public servants you represent.

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,

William Shackelford
NARFE National President