



December 16, 2024

Sent via e-mail

Dear Senator:

The Federal-Postal Coalition is an alliance of more than thirty labor unions, management and membership associations representing the interests of current and retired federal and postal employees who live and work in every state. We urge you to vote YES on the Social Security Fairness Act, H.R. 82.

As you are aware, the Social Security Fairness Act would repeal the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). These policies unfairly target the earned Social Security benefits of our nation's public servants, including a substantial portion of our country's federal retirees.

GPO and WEP reduce the hard-earned retirement benefits from public sector employees at the federal, state and local levels whose work is not covered by Social Security. GPO targets and reduces spousal and survival Social Security benefits, which disproportionately impacts widows and widowers. Currently, widow's benefits are reduced by \$2 for every \$3 earned if the widow is eligible for a pension based on a public sector job that was not covered by Social Security. WEP can result in a monthly Social Security benefit as much as \$587 less than under the regular benefit formula, drastically reducing the amount of fixed income for a retiree to live on.

Repeal of these provisions is long overdue. Social Security is a critical source of income for our nation's retirees, but we have allowed needless discrimination against retired public servants for far too long. These individuals paid Social Security taxes in connection with covered work (e.g., in the private sector), earning their Social Security benefits. Yet because they chose careers in public service and earned a pension through that service, their earned Social Security benefits are significantly reduced - or even eliminated. These penalties discourage public service and hamper the retirement security of those with long careers benefiting this nation.

The legislation received overwhelming, bipartisan support in the House as it passed with 327 representatives voting in favor. Its companion bill in the Senate has over 60 cosponsors. It is time to pass this long overdue bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

AFGE, American Federation of Government Employees

AFSCME, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees

AFSA, American Foreign Service Association

APWU, American Postal Workers Union

FAAMA, Federal Aviation Administration Managers Association

FMA, Federal Managers Association

IAFF, International Association of Fire Firefighters

IBEW, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

IFPTE, International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers

LiUNA, Laborers' International Union of North America

NARFE, National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association
NATCA, National Air Traffic Controllers Association
NAAE, National Association of Agriculture Employees
NAAUSA, National Association of Assistant United States Attorneys
NAGE, National Association of Government Employees
NALC, National Association of Letter Carriers
NAPS, National Association of Postal Supervisors
NFFE, National Federation of Federal Employees
NPMHU, National Postal Mail Handlers Union
NRLCA, National Rural Letter Carriers Association
NTEU, National Treasury Employees Union
NWSEO, National Weather Service Employees Organization
POPA, Patent Office Professional Association
PPOA, Postal Police Officers Association
PMA, Professional Managers Association
SEA, Senior Executives Association
UPMA, United Postmasters of America