



November 12, 2024

Sent via e-mail

Dear Representative:

As Chair of the Federal-Postal Coalition, an organization of over thirty labor unions and management associations representing the interests of current and retired federal and postal employees, I urge you to vote in favor of H.R. 82, the Social Security Fairness Act, when it is brought up on suspension.

As you are aware, the Social Security Fairness Act would repeal the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). These policies from the 1970s 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 \$512 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.

Now it is time for the House to take action to address these longstanding inequities and vote yes on H.R. 82.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Katie Maddocks
Federal-Postal Coalition Chair
Legislative Director, National Postal Mail Handlers Union