

SOCIAL SECURITY FAIRNESS

HERE IS HOW YOU CAN PERSONALLY ADVANCE THE NEEDED LEGISLATION!

Working in a state, local, or municipal government job, or as a teacher whose retirement pension will come from a state government agency like MePERS, puts you at risk of losing any Social Security benefits. Over two million retirees have had their hard-earned benefits partially cut or even completely eliminated.

If this is affecting you, or members of your family, then you need to let the President and Members of Congress know and ask them to Support Congressional Legislation to Change the Unfair Social Security Government Pension Offset (GPO) regulations and Windfall Elimination Provisions (WEP).

1st - Go to www.ssfairness.com. There you will find information about the issue and how to “Take Action” via Action Alerts posted in the right hand side of the website’s “Take Action” page.

2nd- Click on the “Take Action” link on the lower right hand side and complete the letter that will be forwarded to the White House. You will note that the printed letter talks about Retired California Teachers. That is because this website was set up by the California Retired Teachers Association. However, using this link is not just limited to Retired California Teachers. To the right of where you put your name, there is a box where you can personalize your remarks.

3rd - After completing the White House communication, go back to the home page and click on “DC Action.” This link in the lower right of the page will take you to a letter that has been drafted for your use and will be forwarded to your Members of Congress. Again you can personalize in the box available to you to the right of where you put your name, so that your Members of Congress will know where you live. Out-of-State MAR Retirees, you should be contacting the Members of Congress of the State where you are now eligible to vote. The website will send the letters based on the zip code you use. This is a national issue.

4th - Sign up for future Action Alerts. Spread the word and pass on the link, www.ssfairness.com to others who are affected, including friends, former colleagues, and groups of seniors who have retired or are over 65 and still working who will be affected by the offsets.

5th- Call Joe Pietroski, MAR Legislative Manager, with your questions or if you are having difficulty with navigation of the www.ssfairness.com website, at 1-800-535-6555 or 207-582-1960, or email your comments to jpierroski@maineretirees.org or MAR@maineretirees.org. More information about this issue will be posted at MAR’s website, www.maineretirees.org.

Responses to www.ssfairness.com have strongly indicated that very few of those affected had heard about the offsets and windfall provisions until they were about to retire or until a spouse who was receiving social security benefits died. **More than half of those affected by the GPO and WEP are women, who lost All or nearly All of their spousal benefits.** The President and the Congress need to HEAR from those affected or will be affected. Let them HEAR from you.