

This is an example of the letters that were generated after one of our MAR members used www.ssfairness.com to urge action on Social Security WEP and Off-Set Provisions.



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Your Letter to the President and Congress

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Petition2Congress. Your messages are on the way.

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March 19, 2015

Dear President Obama,
Dear Representative Nugent,
Dear Senator Nelson,
Dear Senator Rubio,

WHEREAS, After 1965, California's educators were not allowed to participate in the Federal Social Security System; and

WHEREAS, The State Teachers' Retirement System is not coordinated with the Federal Social Security System; and

WHEREAS, The benefits of certain members of the Public Employees' Retirement System and retirement systems established pursuant to the County Employees Retirement Law of 1937 are not coordinated with the Federal Social Security System; and

WHEREAS, The public safety officers' retirement plans are uniquely designed to address the special needs of their professions, including firefighters' unique employment characteristics, such as the physical demands of the job, which ultimately result in higher injury rates and permanent disabilities; and

WHEREAS, The Social Security Act includes two penalties, the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), that reduce the Social Security benefits payable to persons who are entitled to benefits under other retirement systems, and which directly controvert the designed intention of these California public retirement system plans; and

WHEREAS, These provisions penalize individuals who move from private sector employment into teaching, public safety, and other careers in public service; and

WHEREAS, These provisions penalize individuals who earned Social Security benefits through their own employment prior to or after public service by denying earned benefits; and

WHEREAS, The elimination of the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision would greatly improve the opportunities for hiring and retaining teachers, peace officers, firefighters, and other public employees in California; and

WHEREAS, The elimination of the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision would provide economic stimulus across California by providing earned retirement benefits to public servants in every region of this state during this time of continuing slow economic growth;

The WEP/GPO:

- Penalizes public employees in all 50 states;
- Denies earned and paid for benefits;
- Penalizes widows and widowers by up to 100% loss of survivor benefits;

Congress must act now to provide Social Security Solvency and Fairness.

Congress must act to repeal the WEP/GPO and protect earned and paid for Social Security benefits.

We the undersigned want Congress to act to provide Social Security Solvency and Fairness by repealing the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset.

The following comments are the personal comments of the MAR member. You will fill in your own personal comments in the space provided in the form you fill out.

I never expected to have the financial stress that I have after working 25 years as a teacher and over 30 years working in social security covered jobs. Additionally I am not being treated fairly after my husband's death, by social security. We need your support and assistance to right this unfairness.

Sincerely,

This is the space where the MAR members name was

This is where the street address was

Lady Lake, FL 32159-5617 ***

***the zip code will automatically generate the letters to the correct Senators and Members of Congress who represent that particular zip code

Thanks again for taking action, and keep this email for your records.

Also, be sure to visit <http://www.petition2congress.com/> for more important action items.

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The following letter appeared in the Bangor Daily News on April 20, 2015

Preserve Social Security benefits

There is good news for those having Social Security benefits reduced by the Windfall Elimination Provision, or WEP, and the Government Pension Offset, or GPO. Two bills are filed in the U.S. House of Representatives. H.R. 973 — filed by Reps. Rodney Davis, R-Illinois, and Adam Schiff, D-California — calls for the full repeal of the windfall and offset provisions.

Contact Sens. Susan Collins and Angus King to ask them to support the filing of a Senate version of H.R. 973.

There also is H.R. 711 — filed by Reps. Richie Neal, D-Massachusetts, and Kevin Brady, R-Texas — that would repeal only WEP and is considered a “compromise proposal.” It is deemed cost neutral and supported by the Social Security Administration because they said it does not add to the federal deficit or require a penny of new tax money. If this bill is passed, the Social Security benefit formula should be reworked to more accurately reflect present and future retirees’ work history.

Contact Reps. Bruce Poliquin and Chellie Pingree about both bills. Also suggest Collins and King support filing a Senate version of H.R. 711. If our senators and representatives decide to support H.R.711 instead of H.R. 973, then there also should be bills filed this congressional session to repeal GPO.

Emphasize how these provisions unfairly reduce or even eliminate hard-earned Social Security benefits. These laws are not applied in all 50 states, which also is unjust. Emphasize things should be changed for retirees already having Social Security benefits reduced or eliminated, as well as for future retirees.

Karen E. Holmes

Cooper