

Repeal Social Security's Unfair Government Pension Offset & Windfall Elimination Provision



The Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) deprive more than 2.7 million educators and other dedicated public servants of Social Security benefits they have *earned*. That needs to end!

- ▶ The WEP affects about 2 million people. It reduces the **Social Security retirement, disability, spousal, or survivor benefits** of people who work in jobs in which they pay Social Security taxes and jobs in which they do NOT pay Social Security taxes—for example, educators who take part-time or summer jobs to make ends meet.
- ▶ The GPO affects more than 700,000 people. It reduces—or eliminates—the **Social Security spousal or survivor benefits** of people who also get a pension based on federal, state, or local government employment NOT covered by Social Security. Two-thirds of the pension amount is deducted from the Social Security benefit—for someone getting a \$1,500 pension, for example, the Social Security benefit is lowered by \$1,000. More than 70 percent of those affected by the GPO lose their entire spousal or survivor benefit.
- ▶ These offsets **discourage people from becoming educators**, especially those in mid-career who stand to lose Social Security benefits they have already earned. That, in turn, can adversely affect the quality of the education our students receive.

NEA-SUPPORTED BILLS

- ▶ The bipartisan Social Security Fairness Act (S. 597/H.R. 82) would fully repeal both the GPO and WEP. The bill has 49 cosponsors in the Senate and over 300 in the House.
- ▶ The Social Security 2100 Act (S. 2280/H.R. 4583) would repeal the GPO and WEP, increase benefits across the board, and calculate annual cost-of-living adjustments for seniors more accurately.
- ▶ The Social Security Expansion Act (S. 393/H.R. 1046), introduced by Sen. Sanders (I-VT) and Senator Warren (D-MA), and Rep. Janice Schakowsky (D-IL-9), phases out the payroll tax cap, increases benefits, and updates the formula for calculating the annual cost-of-living adjustment.
- ▶ The Public Servants Protection and Fairness Act of 2023 (H.R. 426), introduced by Rep. Richard Neal (D-MA-1), would provide relief payments of \$150 a month to current WEP retirees, establishes a new, fairer formula and a permanent benefit guarantee