



November 22, 2024

Sent via e-mail

Dear Leader Schumer and Leader McConnell:

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 bring the Social Security Fairness Act, H.R. 82, as passed by the House, to the Senate floor for a vote.

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.

Sincerely,

American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE)
American Foreign Service Association (AFSA)
American Postal Workers Union (APWU)
Federal Aviation Administration Managers Association (FAAMA)
Federal Managers Association (FMA)
International Association of Fire Firefighters (IAFF)

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)
International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE)
Laborers' International Union of North America (LiUNA)
National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE)
National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA)
National Association of Agriculture Employees (NAAE)
National Association of Assistant United States Attorneys (NAAUSA)
National Association of Government Employees (NAGE)
National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC)
National Association of Postal Supervisors (NAPS)
National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE)
National Postal Mail Handlers Union (NPMHU)
National Rural Letter Carriers Association (NRLCA)
National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU)
National Weather Service Employees Organization (NWSEO)
Patent Office Professional Association (POPA)
Postal Police Officers Association (PPOA)
Professional Aviation Safety Specialists (PASS)
Professional Managers Association (PMA)
Senior Executives Association (SEA)
United Postmasters of America (UPMA)