

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 18, 2024

The Honorable Jason Smith  
Chairman  
U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal  
Ranking Member  
U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Neal:

As the bipartisan leaders of a coalition movement to address the injustices of the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO), we write to express our gratitude for the U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means' subcommittee hearing earlier this week. Throughout our time in Congress, we have heard from tens of thousands of Americans who have been adversely impacted and impoverished by these harmful policies. These WEP/GPO victims have had their Social Security benefits unfairly reduced – and in some cases altogether eliminated – because they chose a life of public service. It is time to offer them a remedy.

WEP/GPO has a devastating effect on the livelihoods and retirements of millions of public servants in America, as well as American citizens living abroad. We have heard heartbreaking stories from constituents in Louisiana and Virginia who have suddenly lost a beloved spouse, only to be notified that their survivor's benefits will be fully offset by their public pension due to the GPO. Victims have testified that after working long hours in a second job that kept them away from their kids and families, they've lost more to the WEP than they ever earned. Many of these victims have been forced to sell their family home and go on public assistance to make ends meet in their retirement. With the Ways and Means Committee so focused on ensuring retirement security for all Americans, there is no time like the present for Congress to act.

As sponsors of H.R. 82, which is currently the alternative to WEP/GPO with the most support, we believe that full repeal is the best solution. We hope that you give full and fair consideration to all the public testimony that you received during the hearing proceedings and give WEP/GPO victims an opportunity to tell the Committee their stories for the record. Millions of retired police officers, teachers, firefighters, government employees, and others have been waiting for fairness. These dedicated public servants deserve better.

We thank you for your consideration and your continued commitment to working together on a bipartisan alternative to WEP/GPO.

Sincerely,



Garret Graves  
Member of Congress



Abigail Spanberger  
Member of Congress