

Support the Social Security Fairness Act of 2017



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NEA strongly supports the bipartisan Social Security Fairness Act, which fully repeals the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) that together deprive nearly 9 million Americans of the Social Security benefits they have earned.

WHO IS AFFECTED

- ▶ The GPO and WEP penalize educators, police officers, firefighters, and other employees of state and local governments who dedicate their lives to **public service**.
- ▶ The GPO affects more than **7 million** people — 6.4 million state and local government employees plus 615,000 Social Security beneficiaries. (Congressional Research Service, [Social Security: The Government Pension Offset \(GPO\)](#), Congressional Research Service, April 2014)
- ▶ The WEP affects about **1.6 million** Social Security beneficiaries. (Congressional Research Service, [Social Security: The Windfall Elimination Provision \(WEP\)](#), June 2015)

HOW IT HURTS EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

- ▶ The GPO reduces, by two-thirds, the **Social Security spousal or survivor benefits** of people not covered by Social Security themselves — for example, an educator with a pension of \$900 per month and a spouse covered by Social Security loses \$600 per month, her entire Social Security benefit.
- ▶ The WEP reduces, by up to 50 percent, the **Social Security retirement, disability, spousal, or survivor benefits** of people who work in jobs covered by Social Security and jobs NOT covered by Social Security over the course of their careers — for example, educators compelled to take part-time or summer jobs to make ends meet.
- ▶ The GPO and WEP negatively impact students by **discouraging people from becoming educators**, especially those in mid-career who stand to lose Social Security benefits they have already earned.

WHAT IS NEEDED

- ▶ Support the bipartisan Social Security Fairness (S. 915/H.R. 1205) to **repeal the GPO and WEP fully**.
- ▶ The Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act, introduced in the 114th Congress, **addresses inequities perpetuated by the WEP, but also creates new winners and losers**. Specifically, we are concerned about reductions in Social Security benefits for people who do not vest in a public pension plan; the fiscal impact on Social Security beneficiaries identified as having received overpayments; those with 30 years of Social Security-covered earnings who would lose their exemption from the offsets; and the failure to provide any relief for those affected by the GPO.