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1. GPO/WEP Survey from our FEA-R members under CSRS. In preparation for the NEA Day of Action to Repeal GPO/WEP (last May 16), FEA conducted a survey among our CSRS recipients. The results that you submitted were shared with U.S. House Representatives and U.S. Senators by FEA members. Here were the results:

- The percent of CSRS retirees who had also paid into Social Security (all 40 credits): 78.6%
- The percent of CSRS retirees who had worked in education for more than 30 years: 82.1%
- The percent of CSRS retirees who had their Social Security benefits reduced by more than 50%: 50% (Over 12% were penalized by 75% or more)
- The percent of CSRS who have contacted Congress to repeal GPO/WEP: 25%

The NEA Task Force (which included 3 FEA members) visited a number of Congressional representatives urging them to co-sponsor the bills to repeal GPO/WEP (HR 82 or SB 597). As of last week, SB 597 had 44 co-sponsors in the Senate. House Resolution 82 had 276 co-sponsors. We are gaining momentum to reach 290 cosponsors needed to trigger the House Consensus Calendar rule process that would require either committee advancement or a floor vote.

What can you do? Visit the NEA Legislative Action Center (<https://www.nea.org/advocating-for-change/action-center/take-action/fully-repeal-unfair-social-security-penalties>), and continue to advocate for the repeal of GPO/WEP with your representative. If you have already done so, thank you; and feel free to write them again!

While GPO/WEP hurts retirees in all 50 States, it has had the most devastating effect in these 7 states:

Massachusetts, California, Colorado, Illinois, Louisiana, Ohio and Texas. If you reside in one of these States, please contact your US representative and ask them to co-sponsor and/or support HR 82.

2. Your financial support helps elect those who support our retirees. Every year, the NEA works hard to fight for legislation that ensures quality education and support for educational employees, active and retired members. Our FEA members have been the leaders every year in giving sacrificially to the *Fund for Children and Public Education*, the main way NEA supports electing pro-education candidates. NEA

continues to fight for political allies to who support the repeal of GPO/WEP, an equal cost of living increase for those under FERS, and more fair method of computing a cost of living raise for Social Security recipients. Please consider giving what you can. Giving is done at: www.neafund.org Be sure to list "Federal Education Association" as your *state affiliate*, and list "retiree" as your *contributor type*.

3. Equal COLA Act Reintroduced. HR 866 has been re-introduced in Congress which would allow FERS retirees to receive the same cost of living increase as Social Security recipients without being penalized 1%, when the COLA is 3% or higher. Currently retirees continue to see their annuities earned through years of dedicated public service, decrease in value annually. This is exactly what the COLA increases were designed to prevent. NEA supports the passage of HR 866.

4. FEA/NEA will meet in Orlando this summer. FEA will hold its semi-annual Board of Directors meeting June 28-29 in Orlando, Florida. FEA will then hold its annual meeting on June 30/July 1 at the Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista Hotel, 1751 Hotel Plaza Blvd, Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830. The annual meeting is open to all FEA members. The NEA Representative Assembly will be July 2-6 at the Orlando Convention Center. If you have items of interests or concerns that you wish to be raised at any of these 3 meetings, let us know at retiredFEA@gmail.com

5. Teaching Juneteenth and the Meaning of Freedom. On June 19, 1865, 250,000 still-enslaved Texans learned from Union soldiers that they were free, months after the Civil War's end, and more than 2 years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. For more information, visit:

<https://www.nea.org/professional-excellence/student-engagement/tools-tips/teaching-juneteenth-and-meaning-freedom>

6. FEA Seeking Information From Members Improperly Denied RAT Under the 175-Day Rule. DoDEA Overseas employees and their dependents are to receive RAT once they reach 175 paid days in a school year. Some current and Retired FEA members and/or their family members have been denied RAT because management improperly claimed the required threshold was 175 instructional days, which would not include paid days such as in-service days. If you or a family member were denied RAT orders or reimbursement for a RAT voucher in the past 7 years (2016 to present) because you were incorrectly told you needed 175 instructional days – not just 175 paid days – you may be owed reimbursement. FEA has created a form you can use to submit your details to us. Go to: <https://forms.gle/fqy1mpRijXwLJcDf8>
