
September 2024--SPECIAL EDITION FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION!

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1. An Urgent Appeal to FEA-Retired Members. Now is the time for FEA-Retired members to take strong action to get GPO/WEP repealed, once and for all. NEA has been fighting this battle for nearly 3 decades, and finally we are very close to the finish line. The Government Pension Offset/Windfall Elimination Provision has robbed nearly 3 million Americans of their full social security benefits, including FEA-Retired members under CSRS.

It can also affect those under FERS. Consider the drawdown at Fort Knox, in which a number of educators working under FERS (earning all their Social Security credits), had to take education jobs in the Kentucky school system. Suddenly they find themselves under a retirement system that does not pay into Social Security; so when they retire, they will learn that what they expected to earn during retirement (in Social Security) has been slashed by GPO/WEP

2. Why action is needed NOW! Right now, during this election campaign, NEA is pulling out all the stops to get these 2 bills passed (HR 82 and S 597). The House bill has 325 co-sponsors, which is enough to get the bill marked up and onto the House floor for a vote. A “discharge petition” has been filed by Louisiana representative Garret Graves that would force a vote if 218 representatives sign this petition. The Senate bill has over 60 co-sponsors, which is above the filibuster threshold for passage. Several large labor organizations are making September the month to get this done!

3. What We Need EVERY FEA-R Member to Do.

- **The easiest action to take.** Visit the NEA Legislative Action Center ([Action Center | NEA](#)). Click on the box that says “Fully Repeal Unfair Social Security Penalties. Then just follow a few simple steps to let your Congressional representative/Senators know how you feel.
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- **Make a phone call.** Call Congress and leave a message for your representative/Senator. Ask them to co-sponsor HR82 or S 597. If they do not commit, then ask them to at least be willing to vote for either of these bills when they come to the floor. The phone numbers for the Senate can be found at [T:\13 STE AND TELE.TXT \(senate.gov\)](mailto:T:\13 STE AND TELE.TXT (senate.gov)) or call 202-224-3121 and ask the House switchboard to connect you to your representative. Be sure to tell your House member that you want him/her to sign Representative Graves' discharge petition on HR 82.
- **Has GPO/WEP affected you? Tell Congress your story!** One of the best ways to influence Congress is to share your personal experience of being hurt by GPO/WEP. Go to your Congressperson/Senators website, click on the "Contact Me" link, and share your story.

4. Let's Make This Happen. FEA-R is asking that every retired member take one of the above steps to make sure that all retirees have a livable wage during retirement. We are over 800 members strong, and we live in almost every State in the U.S. Together we can make a difference for our current and future retirees.

5. Reference Information: Who are the current co-sponsors? If you want to see who are the current co-sponsors are for HR 82 and S 597, visit the following websites: [Cosponsors - S.597 - 118th Congress \(2023-2024\): Social Security Fairness Act | Congress.gov | Library of Congress](#) or [Cosponsors - H.R.82 - 118th Congress \(2023-2024\): Social Security Fairness Act of 2023 | Congress.gov | Library of Congress](#)
