
December 2024

IMPORTANT: Do not view this information while you are on government time, government property or while using government equipment. Do not forward this information to any DoDEA or other government email account or to anyone who is likely to view it while on government time or using government equipment.

1. Urgent Request to Get the Repeal of GPO/WEP over the Finish Line! The *Government Pension Offset* and *Windfall Elimination Provision* has been in effect for decades robbing our CSRS retirees the Social Security benefits they have earned. Through monumental grassroots organizing, the House voted last month to repeal GPO/WEP by a vote of 327 to 25 (a supermajority/bipartisan vote). While the Senate has over 60 co-sponsors for Senate Bill 597, a floor vote has not been scheduled. Please contact your Senators and urge an immediate vote. There are 2 ways to accomplish this important task:

a. You can use the NEA link [Repeal Unfair Social Security Penalties | NEA](#) . Once on this page, fill out the demographic on the right hand side and submit. NEA will use a pre-written message to alert your Senators, based on your zip code.

b. You can also contact your Senators directly. Visit <https://senate.gov> and click on the words “Find your Senator” in the top banner, and then click on your State. Your Senators’ photos should appear with the word “contact” under the pic. Click on that to send a personal message about the urgency to have a floor vote on SB 597.

2. Don’t Miss a Deadline. As noted in the November newsletter, FEA-Retired members have only a few days left to make changes in their Medicare coverage (December 9th is the deadline) or in their Federal Health Insurance (December 11 is the deadline).

3. AFSPA offers Live Webinars on FEHB Benefits and Changes. Again this year, the American Foreign Service Protective Association will offer a series of webinar to provide an overview of the Federal Employees Health Benefit programs, OPM’s 2024 initiatives, and benefit enhancements. To get the full schedule and more information, visit: [Open Season – AFSPA](#) and click on “events” in the upper banner.

4. DoDDS Reunion. Next year’s DoDDS Reunion will be at the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno, Nevada, July 14-18, 2025. The current registration fee is \$150, but this will go up after January 1st. Hundreds of retirees have already registered. For more information go to www.mydoddsreunion.com

5. Free Covid Tests. The US government is again offering free at-home Covid-19 test, up to 4 free tests per household. Orders yours by visiting: <https://covidtests.gov>
