

GPO/WEP Talking Points

- More than 2.5 million hard-working Americans, including many educators, have their Social Security benefits reduced—or lose them entirely—due to the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO). This is an unfair penalty for public service.
- The WEP reduces the Social Security 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. Some people receiving foreign pensions are also subject to the WEP.
- The GPO reduces—or eliminates—the Social Security spousal or survivor benefits of people who also get a pension based on federal, state, or local government employment NOT covered by Social Security. Two-thirds of the pension amount is deducted from the Social Security benefit—for someone getting a \$1,500 pension, for example, the Social Security benefit is lowered by \$1,000. More than 70 percent of those affected by the GPO lose their entire spousal or survivor benefit.
- The bipartisan Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 82) would fully repeal both the GPO and WEP. Urge your member of Congress to vote for the bill.