

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 7, 2024

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
US Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
US Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell:

Across the United States, millions of public servants find that their Social Security benefits are cut through no fault of their own. Our Social Security Fairness Act now has a total of 62 bipartisan cosponsors, indicating it is strongly positioned to overcome a filibuster and move quickly. For this reason, we urge you to put the Social Security Fairness Act (S. 597) on the Senate floor as soon as possible.

This bill repeals the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO), provisions of current law that unfairly reduce the Social Security benefits earned by nearly 3 million Americans, including police officers, fire fighters, teachers, and other public servants. These workers have dedicated their lives to serving our communities, and this small fix can help give them the peace of mind that the Social Security benefits they earned through covered employment will be there for them and their families when they retire.

Last month, the Senate Finance Subcommittee on Social Security, Pensions, and Family Policy held a field hearing in Columbus, Ohio on this legislation. We heard from witnesses working in education, law enforcement, and public safety about why these provisions are harmful to public servants and make communities less safe because they undermine recruitment efforts in both public safety and our school systems. Their message was clear: take up and pass S. 597 to restore the full Social Security benefits our public sector workers have earned.

The Social Security Fairness Act has been endorsed by a diverse set of organizations, including the National Education Association, American Federation of Teachers, Fraternal Order of Police, International Association of Firefighters, and American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. Our bill is cosponsored by Senators from 36 states, members of the Senate Finance Committee from both parties, including Chairman Wyden, the Senate Majority Leader, and the Ranking Member of the Senate HELP Committee. It is clear to a bipartisan majority of the United States Senate and our constituents that these provisions are patently unfair

and must be repealed. We urge you to immediately schedule a vote for the Social Security Fairness Act.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Susan Collins
United States Senator

cc:

Senator Ron Wyden, Chair of United State Senate Committee on Finance

Senator Mike Crapo, Ranking Member of United States Senate Committee on Finance