



Adopted April 29, 2014
Amended November 13, 2018
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Resolution Eliminating the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision

Whereas the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) are two measures in the Social Security Act that unfairly penalize public pensioners who worked in public jobs not covered by Social Security; and

Whereas these offsets reduce or even eliminate Social Security benefits for over two and a half million public employees nationwide, including millions of retired federal, state and local government employees who worked as teachers, police, firefighters and general employees; and

Whereas over 800,000 Social Security beneficiaries had their spousal or survivor benefits completely eliminated or partially reduced by the GPO in 2019; and

Whereas the GPO requires affected public retirees to offset two-thirds of their public pensions against any Social Security spouse or survivor benefit to which they would otherwise be entitled; and

Whereas the GPO has a particularly harsh impact on moderate- and low-income pensioners, with women affected disproportionately and more likely to end life in poverty; and

Whereas those affected by the GPO would be entitled to collect their full Social Security benefit – based on a spouse’s work record – if they had never worked a day in any type of employment, but are singled out for the offset because they worked in public sector jobs; and

Whereas the WEP applies a similar offset to Social Security benefits earned by public employees themselves in Social Security-covered jobs – held before, during or after their public-service careers; and

Whereas these public pensioners can lose hundreds of dollars a month from their earned Social Security benefits, simply because they worked at some point in the public sector.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Alliance for Retired Americans endorses S. 1302 and H.R. 82, the Social Security Fairness Act of 2021; and H.R. 5723, A Sacred Trust Act, which repeal the WEP/GPO; and

Therefore, be it finally resolved that the Alliance will continue to fight against unjust infringements on the rights of seniors and marginalized groups.