

**NATIONAL  
FRATERNAL ORDER  
OF POLICE**



**INTERNATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION OF  
FIRE FIGHTERS**

December 12, 2024

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-221, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-230, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell,

On behalf of the more than 352,000 members of the International Association of Fire Fighters and the 377,000 members of the National Fraternal Order of Police, we urge all Members of the U.S. Senate to **vote YES on the upcoming cloture vote for the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 82)**. The Social Security Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) are among the biggest insults to public safety officers as it denies them a dignified retirement. Congress must ensure public servants receive the benefits they paid for and earned.

Since the 1980s, the WEP and GPO have stolen Social Security benefits from public servants, including public safety officers. While these provisions were intended to prevent double-dipping in the Social Security system, they inadvertently slash Social Security benefits for retired public-sector workers by nearly \$500 per month. Public employees often pay into Social Security through a second job – just like every other American worker. Unlike most other Americans, retired public employees quickly learn that their careers in public service are rewarded with a denial of the very Social Security benefits they paid for. H.R. 82 would fully repeal this penalty on public service and allow public employees to receive the retirement benefits they have earned.

Our members are looking for fairness, not handouts. In November, the House passed the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 82) with overwhelming support from a majority of Democrats AND Republicans. The 327-75 vote shows that this is a fundamental issue of fairness for fire fighters, law enforcement officers, and anyone who keeps our communities safe and prosperous. We urge the Senate to quickly take up this bill and grant meaningful relief to the men and women who dutifully serve our communities. **Vote YES on cloture and for final passage of H.R. 82.**

Sincerely,

Patrick Yoes  
National President  
Fraternal Order of Police

Edward A. Kelly  
General President  
International Association of Fire Fighters