



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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CHUCK CANTERBURY
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

JAMES O. PASCO, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

28 May 2019

Dear Representative,

I am writing on behalf of the membership of the Fraternal Order of Police to ask you again to cosponsor the "Social Security Fairness Act."

The bill was reintroduced as H.R. 141 by Representative Rodney L. Davis (R-IL) and 19 other bipartisan cosponsors. It is identical to H.R. 1205, which you cosponsored in the previous Congress. The bill would repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) in current Social Security law, and it is one of the top legislative priorities of the Fraternal Order of Police. We hope that you will once again demonstrate your support for law enforcement and public employees by joining a total of 172 of your fellow Members of the House and cosponsoring H.R. 141.

We believe that this is an issue of fairness. When the WEP was enacted in 1983, its stated purpose was to remove a "windfall" for persons who spent some time in jobs not covered by Social Security and who also worked other jobs where they paid Social Security taxes long enough to qualify for retirement benefits. This provision has created a very real inequity for many public employees, particularly law enforcement officers, who retire earlier than other government employees and often begin second careers which require them to pay into the Social Security system. Law enforcement officers who had second careers face as much as a 60% cut to the Social Security benefits. This is a reduction of a benefit to which they are entitled because they paid into the system--not an adjustment for a "windfall."

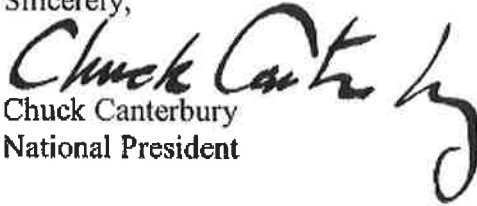
Similarly, the GPO offsets the Social Security benefit to which a surviving spouse is entitled by two-thirds of the monthly amount of any government pension that they might receive. For example, the widow of a retired law enforcement officer who collected a government pension of \$1,200 would be *ineligible* to collect the Social security survivor's benefit of \$600. Two-thirds of \$1,200 is \$800, which is greater than the spouse's benefit of \$600; and thus, making her unable to collect it. If the spouse's benefit was \$900, she would collect only \$100, because \$800 would be "offset" by the government pension. Again, the FOP believes this is a matter of fairness and that the offset scheme currently in place penalizes those employees least able to afford it. Law enforcement officers are especially affected because, like many public employees, a significant number of officers are not part of the Social Security system.

—BUILDING ON A PROUD TRADITION—

Ultimately, the "Social Security Fairness Act" is about fairness to public employees who served their communities. However, when these public employees earn a Social Security benefit through other work, they should receive that benefit in full without being penalized because of their public service.

I hope that you will cosponsor this bill again in this Congress. Thank you for your past support and, if I can be of any help, please do not hesitate to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco, in my Washington office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chuck Canterbury". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Chuck Canterbury
National President