

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_:

On November 12, 2024, the House overwhelmingly passed H.R. 82, the Social Security Fairness Act, by a bipartisan vote of 327-75 under suspension of the rules. I urge the Senate to follow suit, and bring the Senate companion bill, S. 597, to the Senate floor for a vote as quickly as possible.

S. 597, a bipartisan bill introduced by Senator Sherrod Brown and Senator Susan Collins, has broad bipartisan support in the Senate with 61 co-sponsors giving the legislation a filibuster proof majority. S. 597 would repeal provisions that reduce Social Security benefits for rural letter carriers, and other federal employees, who receive other benefits such as a state or local government pension.

S. 597 restores retirement benefits for rural letter carriers, and other public servants, who are impacted by the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO). Both provisions unfairly penalize and reduce retirees' incomes by thousands of dollars every year. When a retiree is living on a fixed income, this reduction in retirement benefits can have a significant impact on the retiree.

The WEP applies to retirees who receive both a pension from non-covered work and Social Security benefits. WEP can reduce a retiree's benefit by as much as \$512 per month. Currently, there are about 2 million retirees impacted by WEP. The GPO reduces most, and sometimes all, a spouse's or widow's benefits for retirees who also receive a pension for non-Social Security work.

The time to pass the Social Security Fairness Act, S. 597, is now. For over 40 years, WEP and GPO have unfairly penalized rural letter carriers and federal retirees who chose to pursue a career in public service. Both provisions should be eliminated and allow retirees who are impacted to receive all the benefits they have earned. By passing S. 597, the Senate has the power to correct this injustice. I urge the Senate to bring this important legislation for a vote.

Thank you for your continued dedication and attention to this issue. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about my request.

Sincerely,

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