

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

December 14, 2022

The Honorable Richard Neal
Chairman
U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Neal and Ranking Member Brady:

At a time when America's retirees are struggling to make ends meet, it is crucial that Congress take action to provide retirement fairness to more than 2 million public servants across America. The Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset (WEP/GPO) unfairly reduce Social Security benefits earned by retirees and penalize teachers, first responders, and state employees. As Ranking Member Brady said to Roll Call in September, we are "convinced the best opportunity to repeal the [windfall elimination provision] and get fairness back to these public servants is to act this year and to focus on the windfall elimination provision."¹ We agree that Congress has an extraordinary opportunity to correct this longstanding injustice by including a bipartisan WEP/GPO fix in a year-end package.

A bipartisan coalition of more than 300 cosponsors has expressed their support for H.R. 82 – The Social Security Fairness Act, which would fully repeal both WEP and GPO and provide direct relief to 3% of all Social Security beneficiaries. There is strong consensus that it is time to act, and Congress should not squander that opportunity. We believe that H.R. 82 is the best solution, but we are committed to working together with Committee leadership on a comprehensive path forward.

We know that Committee leadership has placed protecting America's retirees at the forefront of its priorities for the upcoming spending package. While we support the inclusion of other retirement reforms like those proposed in Secure 2.0, nothing provides retirement security like restoring benefits that workers paid for. The millions of public servants affected by the Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset have had their retirement unfairly reduced for decades. Now, the state of our economy is hitting those on fixed incomes the hardest. The Members of the House of Representatives have made their bipartisan support for this bill clear. We urge you to work together with your colleagues

¹ Weiss, Laura (2022, September 23). 'Ways and Means leaders working on lame-duck Social Security fix.' *Roll Call*. <https://rollcall.com/2022/09/23/ways-and-means-leaders-working-on-lame-duck-social-security-fix/>

to take advantage of this current momentum and bring a solution to WEP/GPO to the floor for a vote in a year-end package.

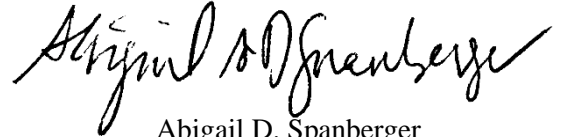
Sincerely,



Garret Graves
Member of Congress



Rodney Davis
Member of Congress



Abigail D. Spanberger
Member of Congress