



Texas Retired Teachers Association

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LET'S TALK REPEAL!

GPO and WEP Harsh Reality for Education Retirees

The Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA) supports the complete repeal of the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). These two provisions impose undue financial harm on retired public servants all over the United States, and in Texas the impact of these two provisions is even more pronounced. Please contact U.S. Senators John Cornyn and Kay Bailey Hutchison, as well as your Congressional Representative and urge them to repeal the GPO and the WEP!

PLEASE NOTE THAT MANY CONGRESSIONAL MEMBERS OFTEN COMMENT THAT THEY ARE NOT ON A COMMITTEE DEALING WITH EITHER OF THESE TWO ISSUES. THIS IS SIMPLY THE WRONG ATTITUDE AND ANSWER! EDUCATION RETIREES NEED COMPLETE BIPARTISAN SUPPORT TO REPEAL THE GPO AND WEP. NOW IS THE TIME FOR REPEAL!

- HR 82 authored by Representatives Howard Berman (D-CA) and Howard McKeon (R-CA) has over 300 co-sponsors in the U.S. House. See the chart below for which Texas Congressional Members have signed on to support and which have not.
- S 206 authored by Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) has only 36 co-sponsors and neither Senators John Cornyn nor Kay Bailey Hutchison support complete repeal.
- The GPO impacts widows and widowers by reducing or eliminating their spousal benefit under Social Security.
- The WEP impacts education retirees who worked in non-covered Social Security school districts, but also worked outside of teaching and paid into the Social Security system. The WEP can reduce a person's earned Social Security benefit by as much as 2/3's.
- The GPO impacts retirees at a very difficult stage in their lives, generally at the loss of their spouse. Loss of that income can create further hardship for education retirees when they are already suffering the loss of a loved one.
- The WEP penalizes education retirees who find alternative employment after they retire.
- The WEP also prevents qualified private sector employees from seeking employment in public education.
- The WEP also discourages military personnel from seeking public education employment, a program that has a major state-wide impact as the United States Congress hopes to encourage a program they initiated called "Troops to Teachers." With the already large concentration of military personnel in Texas and the continued growth of military facilities statewide, Congress is reducing its own program by maintaining the WEP provision!
- Both of these provisions are particularly punitive in Texas as education retirees have no hope of pension increases without action by the Texas Legislature. There has been no permanent increase in education retiree benefits since 2001.

EVERY CONGRESSIONAL MEMBER CAN HELP REPEAL THE GPO AND WEP. DO NOT WAIT FOR THE PROCESS TO MOVE THESE BILLS OUT OF COMMITTEE. **CONGRESSIONAL MEMBERS MUST BE THE PROCESS AND DEMAND THAT ACTION BE TAKEN FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION RETIREES.** TRTA MEMBERS WILL CONTINUE TO PUSH THIS ISSUE UNTIL IT IS FAVORABLY RESOLVED AND BOTH THE GPO AND WEP ARE ONCE AND FOR ALL REPEALED. **CONTACT CONGRESS TODAY.**

HR 82 TEXAS COSPONSORS

Rep. Michael Burgess (1224 Longworth/202.225.7772)
Rep. John Carter (408 Cannon/202.225.3864)
Rep. Michael Conaway (511 Cannon/202.225.3605)
Rep. Henry Cuellar (336 Cannon/202.225.1640)
Rep. Lloyd Doggett (201 Cannon/202.225.4865)
Rep. Chet Edwards (2369 Rayburn/202.225.6105)
Rep. Louie Gohmert (508 Cannon/202.225.3035)
Rep. Charles A. Gonzalez (303 Cannon/202.225.3236)
Rep. Kay Granger (440 Cannon/202.225.5071)
Rep. Al Green (425 Cannon/202.225.7508)
Rep. Gene Green (2335 Rayburn/202.225.1688)
Rep. Ralph M. Hall (2405 Rayburn/202.225.6673)
Rep. Ruben Hinojosa (2463 Rayburn/202.225.2531)
Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee (2435 Rayburn/202.225.3816)
Rep. Eddie Johnson (1511 Longworth/202.225.8885)
Rep. Nick Lampson (436 Cannon/202.225.5951)
Rep. Kenny Marchant (501 Cannon/202.225.6605)
Rep. Michael T. McCaul (415 Cannon/202.225.2401)
Rep. Randy Neugebauer (429 Cannon/202.225.4005)
Rep. Solomon P. Ortiz (2470 Rayburn/202.225.7742)
Rep. Ron Paul (203 Cannon/202.225.2831)
Rep. Ted Poe (1605 Longworth/202.225.6565)
Rep. Silvestre Reyes (2433 Rayburn/202.225.4831)
Rep. Ciro D. Rodriguez (2458 Rayburn/202.225.4511)
Rep. Pete Sessions (1514 Longworth/202.225.4201)

NOT SIGNED ON AS OF 06.15.08

Rep. Joe Barton (2109 Rayburn/ 202.225.2002)

Rep. Kevin Brady (301 Cannon/ 202.225.4901)

Rep. John Culberson (428 Cannon/ 202.225.2571)

Rep. Jeb Hensarling (132 Cannon/ 202.225.3484)

Rep. Sam Johnson (1211 Longworth/ 202.225.4201)

Rep. Lamar Smith (2409 Rayburn/ 202.225.4236)

Rep. Mac Thornberry (2457 Rayburn/ 202.225.3706)

Senator John Cornyn (517 Hart/ 202.224.2934)

Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (284 Russell/ 202.224.5922)