



Retired Public Employees' Association of California

For Immediate Release

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HR 82 Gets Late Night Vote and Passes Senate

SACRAMENTO – RPEA Legislative Director, Randall Cheek, released the following statement after the Senate voted to repeal the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP):

The Social Security Fairness Act was passed by the United States Senate at 12:04 A.M. today, December 21, 2024, on a bipartisan vote of 76 to 20 with 4 not voting. Only Republicans voted no. The four not voting were Manchin of West Virginia, Rubio of Florida, Vance of Ohio and Schiff of California. The bill will repeal 42 years of the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO).

This significant victory for public service workers is the culmination of persistent advocacy and unwavering determination. For years, members of the Retired Public Employees' Association of California (RPEA) have tirelessly campaigned to eliminate the inequities imposed by the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO), which unjustly deprived certain public service workers of their entitled Social Security benefits. Through Senator Sherrod Brown's steadfast, decade-long commitment to repealing these provisions, and the concerted efforts of a broad coalition of retiree associations and union members, over two million public service workers will now receive the Social Security benefits they have diligently earned throughout their careers. Many can finally anticipate a well-deserved retirement after a lifetime of service. We commend the Senate for passing the Social Security Fairness Act and urge President Biden to promptly enact this bill into law.



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HR 82 Gets Late Night Vote and Passes Senate, continued

The date the bill takes effect has not been determined and it is difficult to determine when benefits will be restored. Several steps will need to be taken to recalculate Social Security benefits for retired public workers around the country. That may take some time, and RPEA will have more details in the coming weeks on when retirees can expect their restored Social Security benefits.

We extend our deepest gratitude to you, our RPEA members. Your unwavering support has empowered us to advocate effectively on your behalf, ensuring our collective voice resonates powerfully.

YOU MADE THE REPEAL OF WEP AND GPO A REALITY!

The passage of the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 82) marks a significant victory, but it's crucial to recognize that this achievement requires ongoing vigilance. As long as opposition exists against public workers, the risk of undermining our progress remains. The most effective way to safeguard these hard-won benefits is through a robust and engaged community of retirees committed to supporting RPEA. We serve as your voice and the guardian of your retirement security.

We trust you recognize the value of your association with RPEA. We encourage you to invite others to join our cause. It will require the collective effort of all CalPERS retirees, investing in this organization, to protect and enhance the gains we've secured.

[Please renew your membership today!](#) If you're not yet a member, consider joining us. An annual investment of just \$60—equivalent to \$5 per month—plays a pivotal role in safeguarding and improving your livelihood and income as we continue to champion your retirement security.