



# CONGRESSMAN RODNEY DAVIS

*Proudly Representing the 13th District of Illinois*

## **Cosponsor H.R. 141, the Social Security Fairness Act**

**Supported by the National Education Association (NEA), Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), the Senior Citizens League, and the United Postmasters and Managers of America (UPMA)**

Dear Colleague,

I invite you to cosponsor H.R. 141, the Social Security Fairness Act for the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress. This legislation would eliminate the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), two titles of the Social Security Act that unfairly reduce or eliminate Social Security benefits for millions of Americans who have devoted much of their careers to public service. During the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress, 195 bipartisan House members cosponsored this legislation.

The Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) reduces the earned Social Security benefits of an individual who also receives a public pension from a job not covered by Social Security. For example, educators who do not earn Social Security while employed by public schools but who work part-time or during the summer in jobs covered by Social Security have reduced benefits even though they pay into the system like everyone else. The WEP also affects people who move from a job in which they earn Social Security to a job, such as teaching, where they do not. This can ultimately reduce someone's benefits by up to 40 percent.

Similarly, the Government Pension Offset (GPO) reduces by two-thirds the benefit received by surviving spouses who also collect a government pension. Nine out of ten public employees affected by the GPO lose their entire spousal benefit, even though their spouse paid Social Security taxes for many years.

Reductions to Social Security benefits hurt state and local governments' ability to recruit and retain employees. The loss of earned benefits and survivor benefits means mid-career job changes from private to public employment can result in the employees paying a lifetime cost in reduced retirement payments.

Again, I encourage you to become a cosponsor of the bipartisan Social Security Fairness Act to repeal these harmful Social Security provisions and to ensure our dedicated firefighters, police officers, teachers and other public servants are not denied the benefits they worked hard to earn.

If you have any questions or would like to cosponsor H.R. 141, please have your staff contact my office at 202-225-2371.

Sincerely,

Rodney Davis  
Member of Congress



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<https://rodneydavis.house.gov/>