

RELAC Joins Fight to Pass H.R. 2337

RELAC has joined the national Alliance for Public Retirees in support of H.R. 2337 to reform the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) of the Social Security Act, which adversely affects many of our members.

The WEP reduces the Social Security benefits of people who spent part of their working career in a job covered by Social Security and another part of their career in a job not covered by Social Security.

It has shortchanged affected retirees' Social Security payments by upwards of \$400 a month on average. H.R. 2337 would provide up to \$150 a month in relief for those currently impacted by WEP and fixes the WEP for future retirees.

The proposal also holds harmless those retirees and active employees with substantial service under Social Security from an inadvertent reduction in Social Security benefits.

Reforming WEP has been nearly 40 years in the making. Over the years there have been many starts and stops, but backers say they don't recall being as close to making it happen as today. While earlier bills sought to completely repeal the WEP, many in Congress believe the current bill is the only approach that has a chance of passing.

What is different in 2021 is that there are high-ranking members in Congress from both parties in agreement that the WEP law is unfair and must change. Among them are Rep. Richard Neal of Massachusetts (who introduced H.R. 2337) and Texas Rep. Kevin Brady, the top Democrat and Republican members of the House Ways and Means Committee, which Neal chairs.

At the same time, a growing number of retirees across the country are now harmed by the WEP – nearly 2 million—and are angry. The pressure to pass reform has never been higher.

We urge RELAC members to add their voice by contacting their local representative by phone, e-mail or letter. In your own words, ask the following:

1. Please support and co-sponsor H.R. 2337, Public Servants Protection and Fairness Act of 2021.
2. Please make the passage of WEP reform a personal priority.
3. Briefly, explain that you are a voter in their district and have been unfairly harmed by the WEP. (Offering some brief details about your own situation personalizes the appeal.)

You can find your representative's contact information at <https://www.house.gov/representatives/findyour-representative>