



Retired Employees of Los Angeles County

(A non-profit organization – serving over 17,000 members)

August 7, 2020

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kamala Harris
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
1236 Longworth H.O. B.
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: The Provisions of the Social Security Fairness Act (S. 521 & H.R. 141)
Should be Included in the Coronavirus Relief Package

Dear Senators Feinstein and Harris and Speaker Pelosi:

The Retired Employees of Los Angeles County (RELAC) represents approximately 17,000 former Los Angeles County workers who receive retirement benefits from the Los Angeles County retirement system.

We are writing to urge that the provisions of the Social Security Fairness Act (S. 521 and H.R. 141) be merged into future coronavirus relief packages. The Windfall Elimination Provision (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. The Government Pension Offset (GPO) reduces the Social Security spousal or survivor benefits of people not covered by Social Security themselves.

Together, the WEP and GPO provisions unfairly deprive 2.5 million retired U.S. public servants of the Social Security benefits they have earned.¹

Most of the people harmed by the GPO and WEP are public servants: police officers, firefighters, and other employees of state and local governments. This includes many of our members, who are retirees of the County of Los Angeles.

Exhibit A, attached, includes statements from a number of RELAC members adversely impacted by a significant loss of the financial benefits they have earned. Their statements testify to the economic instability created by GPO and WEP penalties that have unfairly reduced their financial resources and placed their families at risk.

Now, more than ever, repealing the unfair WEP and GPO provisions is urgently needed, especially in the face of the dire economic straits facing so many as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. We urge you to include these critically needed repeals in the Coronavirus relief package.

Sincerely,



David L. Muir
President

Enclosure: Exhibit A

Copies via Email:

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Chairman, Senate Committee on Finance

The Honorable Richard Neal
Chairman, House Committee on Ways and Means

Members of the Senate Committee on Finance

Members of the House Committee on Ways and Means

Members of the California Congressional Delegation

¹ National Association of Police Organizations, Inc. letter dated March 19, 2020, to Honorable Nancy Pelosi and other members of Congress