

End Unfair GPO/WEP Penalties & Strengthen Social Security for All



The Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) discourage people from becoming educators, especially those in mid-career who stand to lose Social Security benefits they have already earned. That, in turn, can adversely affect the quality of the education our students receive.

GPO/WEP IMPACT

- ▶ More than 2.5 million hard-working Americans, including many educators, have their Social Security benefits reduced—or lose them entirely—due to the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO).
- ▶ The WEP reduces the **Social Security benefits of people who work in jobs covered by Social Security and jobs NOT covered by Social Security** over the course of their careers—for example, educators compelled to take part-time or summer jobs to make ends meet. Some people receiving foreign pensions are also subject to the WEP.
- ▶ The GPO reduces—or eliminates—the Social Security spousal or survivor benefits of people who also get a pension based on federal, state, or local government employment NOT covered by Social Security. Two-thirds of the pension amount is deducted from the Social Security benefit—for someone getting a \$1,500 pension, for example, the Social Security benefit is lowered by \$1,000. More than 70 percent of those affected by the GPO lose their entire spousal or survivor benefit.

NEA-SUPPORTED BILLS

- ▶ The bipartisan Social Security Fairness Act (S. 597/H.R. 82) would fully repeal both the GPO and WEP. The bill has 36 cosponsors in the Senate and 204 in the House.