



State of Connecticut  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

May 3, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
568 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Senate Majority Leader  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
House of Representatives Minority Leader  
2433 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Minority Leader  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson, Minority Leader Jeffries, Majority Leader Schumer, and Minority Leader McConnell,

We, the undersigned, write to you on behalf of the Connecticut General Assembly regarding a matter of critical importance to the financial security and well-being of millions of Americans: the elimination of the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) that unfairly reduce Social Security benefits for 3 million U.S. citizens.

For too long, hardworking individuals who have dedicated their lives to public service, including teachers, firefighters, police officers, and other public servants, have been severely and unfairly penalized by these outdated provisions. WEP and GPO undermine the retirement benefits these individuals have earned, create unnecessary financial hardships that extend to their spouses and families, and erode efforts to recruit and retain new workers for the few selective public service fields where these provisions apply.

WEP and GPO have a direct negative impact on nearly 3 million Americans living in every state in our nation. Two-thirds of these workers have paid into the Social Security system, but, because of WEP, will never receive Social Security benefits they have rightly earned. Due to GPO, nearly 750,000 workers will not earn the same level of spousal benefits that their neighbors earn. Moreover, the repercussions of these provisions are felt most acutely

in states like Connecticut, where a high proportion of public employees participate in state or municipal retirement systems that exclude workers from the Social Security system. It is important to note that these numbers reflect those impacted at this time by these provisions and do not take into account the millions more currently working who will be severely impacted if no action is taken.

As elected officials, we recognize the importance of ensuring fairness and equity within the Social Security system. It is unacceptable that individuals who have paid into the system and earned their benefits are unfairly penalized simply because they have also served their communities through public-sector work. It is time for these outdated and harmful provisions to end.

There is widespread bipartisan support across Congress for repealing WEP and GPO. We respectfully request that you take action to make this happen. Doing so would not only rectify a longstanding injustice but also uphold the principles of fairness and equity that are fundamental to our nation.

We stand ready to work with you in this endeavor and urge you to prioritize this critical issue for the well-being of all Americans.

Respectfully,



Representative Matthew Ritter  
Speaker of the House  
Connecticut House of Representatives



Representative Vincent Candelora  
Republican Leader  
Connecticut House of Representatives



Representative Jason Rojas  
Majority Leader  
Connecticut House of Representatives



Senator Martin Looney  
President Pro Temp  
Connecticut State Senate



Senator Stephen Harding  
Republican Leader  
Connecticut State Senate



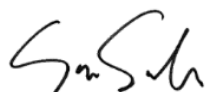
Senator Bob Duff  
Majority Leader  
Connecticut State Senate



Erick Russell  
State Treasurer



William Tong  
State Attorney General



Sean Scanlon  
State Comptroller

CC: Congressman John Larson  
Congressman Jim Himes  
Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro  
Congressman Jim Himes  
Congresswoman Jahana Hayes  
Senator Richard Blumenthal  
Senator Chris Murphy  
Congressman Jason Smith  
Congressman Garrett Graves  
Senator Sherrod Brown  
President Joe Biden