



Member Update

Congress Passes the Social Security Fairness Act, Repeals Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset

NATCA Family,

NATCA applauds Congress for standing up for public sector workers by passing the Social Security Fairness Act and President Biden for signing it into law. This critical legislation permanently repeals the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), and Government Pension Offset (GPO), both of which unfairly reduce the Social Security benefits of public sector workers, including federal employees covered by the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS).

NATCA's National Constitution contains Policy Statement D-3, which provides "*NATCA shall pursue legislation to rescind the Windfall Elimination Provision/Government Pension Offset.*" We have advocated in favor of legislation to rescind the WEP and GPO ever since. Although many attempts came close, it was never achieved until last Friday (Dec. 20th). Nearly 2.8 million Americans, most of whom are retired federal, state, and local government employees or their spouses, are negatively impacted by these unfair provisions.

The Social Security Fairness Act eliminates these two initiatives that targeted workers in the public sector. The WEP is a formula used to reduce Social Security benefits for those who have paid into both civil service pensions and Social Security throughout their lives. The GPO decreased spousal dependent benefits of individuals who did not pay into Social Security themselves by two-thirds of their government pensions. Both provisions were inherently unfair because the primary wage-earner paid into Social Security, and they and their family members should receive benefits like everyone else.

Last week this legislation passed the House of Representatives with overwhelming bipartisan support. With its passage by the Senate, President Biden's signature will put an end to these laws that have denied workers and their dependents their well-earned benefits for so long.

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The National Executive Board

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