

Dear Congressman:

I am a retired public educator from (insert where you taught), and I am writing you today to urge you to cosponsor H.R. 2337 by Congressman Richard Neal (D-MA), which calls for a partial repeal of the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP).

The WEP reduces, but does not necessarily eliminate, a portion of an individual's Social Security earned from other work outside of his/her public employment. In addition, the Government Pension Offset (GPO) eliminates or reduces the spousal benefit by two-thirds the value of a teacher's retirement benefit. These penalties are drastic and cause financial hardship to many public servants and private sector employees who worked in specific public sector jobs.

I am affected by the (insert your personal story here about how the GPO, the WEP or both have affected you).

H.R. 2337 is a bill that partially repeals the WEP and is already growing in support. While H.R. 2337 only partially repeals the WEP, this bill would provide some economic relief to the retired public servants in Louisiana. These penalties need to be repealed now to help retired public servants during this economic crisis. Lawmakers have promised to help seniors with various programs or reforms. These are hard times for seniors living on fixed incomes. The costs of health insurance, prescription drugs and general cost of living expenses continue to increase. Thank you for taking the time to consider my request. I look forward to hearing from you on how you will help in this endeavor.

Sincerely