



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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EXECUTIVE OFFICERS January 6, 2021

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WILLIAM J. JOHNSON, CAE
Executive Director and
General Counsel

The Honorable Rodney Davis
United States House of Representatives
1740 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Davis:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), representing over 241,000 sworn law enforcement officers across the country, I am writing to you to express our full support for the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 82) and our appreciation for your continued dedication and leadership in ensuring public employees get the retirement benefits they rightly deserve.

Though most police officers must retire after specific time served, usually in their early to mid fifties, many look for new opportunities to serve their community. Yet, when they retire from a non-Social Security paying job and move to one that does pay into Social Security, they are penalized by the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). Instead of receiving full support from their rightfully earned Social Security retirement benefit, their pension heavily offsets it, thus vastly reducing the amount they receive.

More troubling is the effect of Government Pension Offset (GPO) on a police officer's retirement. If a spouse who paid into Social Security dies, the surviving public safety officer should be eligible for half of the deceased's benefit. However, GPO requires that this amount be offset by two-thirds of the survivor's pension, eliminating most or all of the payment. By professional need, many police officers are outside of Social Security but if they had not served at all, they would receive the full allotment of the spouse's benefit.

GPO and WEP were meant as a "leveling" response but only serve to hurt public safety officers. By totally repealing both GPO and WEP, H.R. 82 would preserve the retirement security of those who selflessly serve and protect our communities.

NAPO stands ready to support with any efforts necessary to pass this important legislation. If you have any questions, or if we can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me at: (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

William J. Johnson, CAE
Executive Director