

A Message From NARFE President William Shackelford

We're experiencing a monumental moment for NARFE.

On Sunday, January 5, President Joseph Biden signed into law the Social Security Fairness Act, H.R. 82, repealing the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO). H.R. 82, which passed the House on November 12 and cleared the Senate on December 21, brings long-awaited fairness to teachers, first responders, and countless other public servants whose Social Security benefits have been unfairly reduced for more than 40 years due to WEP and GPO.

This achievement would not have been possible without the persistence of our grassroots advocates and the unwavering efforts of NARFE's advocacy team, who worked tirelessly to keep our members informed, engaged, and motivated to share their stories with lawmakers. Even during the most challenging periods, the determination to repeal these unjust provisions remained strong, buoyed by a dedicated community.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the leaders in the House of Representatives who championed this cause in the 118th Congress, particularly Reps. Garret Graves, R-LA, and Abigail Spanberger, D-VA. Their leadership was instrumental in building support and bringing this issue to the forefront. We also thank Sens. Sherrod Brown, D-OH, and Susan Collins, R-ME, who introduced the bill in the Senate, paving the way for its ultimate enactment. Their commitment to so many civil servants whose benefits were unfairly diminished will not be forgotten.



The law repeals WEP and GPO for benefits payable after December 2023. However, we await further details on the implementation. For updates from the Social Security Administration (SSA) regarding the repeal of WEP and GPO, you can check <a href="https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/social-security-fairness-act.html">https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/social-security-fairness-act.html</a>.

Beneficiaries must ensure their information is up to date with SSA, including address and direct deposit details. If you have not applied for spousal or survivor benefits due to GPO, we encourage you to apply as soon as possible to start accruing benefits. You can apply online by creating a personal Social Security account at <a href="https://www.ssa.gov/myaccount/">https://www.ssa.gov/myaccount/</a>.

We appreciate your support as we celebrate this momentous achievement for public servants across the country. Watch President Joe Biden meet with Social Security Fairness Act leaders and advocates at the bill signing ceremony.