

**Richard G. Thissen**  
*National President*



**Jon Dowie**  
*National Secretary/Treasurer*

February 19, 2016

The Honorable Kevin Brady  
301 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Brady:

On behalf of the five million federal employees, retirees and their survivors represented by the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE), I am writing to express our support for H.R. 711, the Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act of 2015, and thank you for the leadership you have shown by introducing and working to advance this reform of the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP).

The WEP unfairly deprives dedicated public servants of the full Social Security benefits earned through the contributions they paid into the system. They are denied these benefits solely because they also worked outside of Social Security-covered employment, through government service. The WEP penalty often comes as a rude awakening, as the actual benefits received fail to meet the expectation created by the estimates provided by Social Security. All told, it has cost public servants hundreds of millions of dollars of Social Security benefits that they rightfully earned.

This bill would help mitigate the WEP penalty by providing some relief for both current beneficiaries through a rebate and future Social Security recipients by improving the formula going forward. This relief is long past due, but very much appreciated by individuals who have for too long been penalized for their public service.

NARFE applauds your continued and creative efforts to reform WEP and that you have not given up on a problem that many seem to have forgotten. We look forward to working with you to move this bill through the legislative process.

Thank you, again, for introducing H.R. 711. If you have any questions regarding this issue, please contact NARFE Legislative Director Jessica Klement at 703-838-7760 or [jklement@narfe.org](mailto:jklement@narfe.org).

Sincerely,

Richard Thissen  
National President

**National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association**

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