



California Public Employees' Retirement System
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June 2, 2015

The Honorable Kevin Brady
House of Representatives
301 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal
House of Representatives
341 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Brady and Representative Neal:

I am writing on behalf of the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) and the more than 1.6 million public employees, retirees, and their families who depend on CalPERS for their retirement security to express our strong support for H.R. 711, "*The Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act of 2015*." We are grateful for your bipartisan effort to replace the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) of the Social Security Act with a new formula that more fairly reflects the unique employment history of all workers in the United States.

H.R. 711 proposes to reform the WEP, which reduces Social Security benefits for many retired public employees who have earned retirement benefits through employment that is not covered by Social Security. By replacing the existing WEP formula, which uses an arbitrary reduction percentage, with a new formula that takes into account the actual wage history for the public employee, your legislation is a fair and pragmatic compromise to a law that has been criticized since its enactment in 1983.

Among active CalPERS members, approximately 232,000 members are in positions that are not covered by Social Security; over 96 percent of CalPERS safety members and over half of all non-safety contracting agency members do not participate in Social Security. As a result, WEP reform has been a priority for CalPERS for many years.

We applaud your leadership on this important issue and look forward to working with you and Members of the California Congressional Delegation to enact H.R. 711 during the current Congress. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 795-3818, or your staff may contact Danny Brown, Chief of our Legislative Affairs Division, at (916) 795-2565.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne Stausboll".

ANNE STAUSBOLL
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Danny Brown, CalPERS, Chief, Legislative Affairs Division