CalRTA
California Retired Teachers Association

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February 16, 2015

The Honorable Kevin Brady
U.S. House of Representatives
301 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C., 20515

Dear Representative Brady:

On behalf of the California Retired Teachers Association (CalRTA) I am writing in support of your sponsored H.R. 711, "The Equal Treatment for Public Servants Act of 2015." This act would repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and replace it with a more equitable formula addressing public employees with both Social Security covered and not-covered earnings.

CalRTA represents the more than 240,000 retirees from the California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS). Many of these retirees have both types of earning based on prior to teaching, during teaching summer employment, and post-teaching employment. They are harmed by the current one-size-fits-all application of the WEP. Thank you for introducing H.R. 711 to provide more equity for these individuals.

While CalRTA supports H.R. 711, we do have some concerns regarding implementation issues that are unclear in the bill. For example, CalRTA supports the equal application of the offset formula as a means of funding the new formula, but we are concerned about how that could affect older retirees who might not be currently identified. CalRTA hopes there will be some form of a statute of limitations on the amount to be recovered from individuals who have been retired for many years. CalRTA also hopes that any recovery amount will be recovered as a percent of the newly calculated benefit amount.

CalRTA supports H.R. 711 and requests that you consider the issues raised in this letter as the bill moves in the 114th Congress. If you have any questions concerning these issues, please contact me at dwalrath@m-w-h.com. Again, thank you for sponsoring H.R. 711.

Sincerely,

David Walrath
Legislative Advocate
California Retired Teachers Association