



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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26 May 2015

The Honorable Kevin P. Brady
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Brady,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our strong support for H.R. 711, the “Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act,” which would repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and replace it with a more equitable and individualized calculation of Social Security benefits. The repeal of the WEP and the Government Pension Offset (GPO) are top legislative priorities of the Fraternal Order of Police.

We believe, as you do, that this is an issue of fairness. When the WEP was enacted in 1983, its stated purpose was to remove a “windfall” for persons who spent some time in jobs not covered by Social Security (like public employees) and also worked other jobs where they paid Social Security taxes long enough to qualify for retirement benefits. This provision has created a very real inequity for many public employees, particularly police officers, who retire earlier than other government employees to begin second careers which require them to pay into the Social Security system. Law enforcement officers who have second careers face a sixty percent (60%) cut to their Social Security benefits. This is a reduction of a benefit to which they are entitled because they paid into the system—not an adjustment for a “windfall.”

Your legislation repeals the WEP and would calculate benefits as if all the worker’s earnings were subject to Social Security taxes using the standard benefit formula. To ensure Social Security benefits are based only on Social Security wages, the benefit would be multiplied by the percent of earnings subject to Social Security taxes.

On behalf of the more than 330,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I look forward to working with you and your staff to move this bill forward. If I can be of any additional help on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco in my Washington office.

Sincerely,


Chuck Canterbury
National President

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