

HOUSTON FIREFIGHTERS'
RELIEF AND RETIREMENT FUND
Investing for Firefighters and Their Families®



November 18, 2014

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

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Dear Congressman Brady:

I am writing on behalf of the approximately 6,500 active and retired City of Houston Firefighters, who are members of the Houston Firefighters' Relief and Retirement Fund ("HFRRF"). As Pension Board Chair, I am involved in many issues that are related to the HFRRF pension plan, including the Social Security program. On a number of occasions I have visited with you and other members of the Texas Congressional Delegation to discuss the Windfall Elimination Program (WEP) and other pieces of federal legislation and law.

The current one-size-fits-all approach of the WEP offset is unfair to many retirees. It is an arbitrary calculation that does not take into account a retiree's actual work history. The legislation you recently introduced, H.R. 5697, the Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act, would replace the current WEP calculation with the standard Social Security formula. For purposes of calculating the final benefit, the new calculation would take into account each worker's average career wage that is subject to Social Security taxes. This will ensure that each worker's actual work history is used in determining the benefit and will result in a fairer approach to the benefit calculation.

Therefore, it is with my utmost appreciation that I write today to lend my support to your efforts to enact H.R. 5697. Given the difficult financial times our federal government is facing today, we appreciate your continued leadership on this matter even more. Resolving the WEP offset issue is of critical importance to many families in the Houston area. We applaud your efforts.

Sincerely,

Todd Clark
Chair

