



## SCHOOL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF OHIO

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LISA J. MORRIS  
*Executive Director*

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February 5, 2015

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

Re: H.R. 711, the Equal Treatment for Public Servants Act

Dear Representative Brady:

On behalf of the more than 193,000 active and retired members of the School Employees Retirement System of Ohio (SERS) who will be unfairly disadvantaged by the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) when they retire, the SERS Retirement Board wholeheartedly supports the introduction of H.R. 711, the Equal Treatment for Public Servants Act, and advocates for its passage.

In a non-Social Security state like Ohio, all public employees who qualify for a pension are subject to WEP reductions. In a SERS membership survey conducted in 2012, 93% of the respondents indicated that they paid into Social Security at a previous job, which means that nearly all SERS members will be affected by the WEP penalty. In most cases, SERS' retirees lose the maximum \$408 in Social Security benefits they earned. Because the majority of our membership works in low-paying school support positions, the reduction of the modest Social Security benefit they earned is enough to cause financial hardships in retirement.

Even though SERS educates members about the WEP penalty long before they retire, most members do not realize the financial impact until they are ready to retire. The complaint we hear the most is that members believe that they should receive the Social Security benefits they earned, and the Equal Treatment for Public Servants Act does just that.

Thank you for your efforts in introducing legislation that ensures that public servants receive the same level of Social Security benefits as private sector workers. We look forward to working with you to achieve passage of this important legislation.

Regards,

Lisa J. Morris  
Executive Director

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