

Support the Social Security Fairness Act of 2019 (H.R. 141)



NEA strongly supports the bipartisan Social Security Fairness Act, which fully repeals the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) that together deprive 2.5 million Americans of the Social Security benefits they have earned.

WHO IS AFFECTED

- ▶ The GPO and WEP penalize educators, police officers, firefighters, and other employees of state and local governments who dedicate their lives to **public service**.
- ▶ According to the Congressional Research Service, the GPO affects nearly 700,000 people and the WEP affects about 1.8 million people — **2.5 million people in all**.
- ▶ Not only are GPO and WEP benefit cuts unfair, they are often a surprise due to **inadequate notification requirements** that apply only to people hired in 2005 or later.

IMPACT OF GPO & WEP

- ▶ The WEP reduces the **Social Security retirement, disability, spousal, or survivor benefits** of people who work in jobs covered by Social Security and jobs NOT covered by Social Security over the course of their careers — for example, educators compelled to take part-time or summer jobs to make ends meet.
- ▶ The GPO reduces the **Social Security spousal or survivor benefits** of people not covered by Social Security themselves.
- ▶ The GPO and WEP **discourage people from becoming educators**, especially those in mid-career who stand to lose Social Security benefits they have already earned. That, in turn, can adversely affect the quality of the education our students receive.