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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY  
CHAIRMAN, BORDER SECURITY AND ENFORCEMENT  
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COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY  
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND  
THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE  
NATIONAL SECURITY, THE  
BORDER, AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

February 27, 2024

The Honorable Jason Smith  
Chairman  
Committee on Ways and Means  
U.S House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chairman Smith,

I am grateful you could visit Louisiana for the November 2023 field hearing to receive testimony from those affected by Social Security's Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO). These unjust policies have hurt our working citizens for too long. **The *Social Security Fairness Act* (H.R. 82) is a simple fix to this pressing problem and should be taken up for markup in the Ways & Means Committee this Spring.**

Our first responders, teachers, nurses, and other affected public employees deserve to be treated fairly. First introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives in 2002, the *Social Security Fairness Act* received over 300 co-sponsors in the 108<sup>th</sup>, 109<sup>th</sup>, 110<sup>th</sup>, 111<sup>th</sup>, and 117<sup>th</sup> Congresses, and has now reached 308 co-sponsors for the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress. Congress has deliberated long enough. It is time for action. The public and legislative support is sufficiently present for Congress to swiftly move forward with this proposal.

As a former law enforcement officer in Louisiana, I have seen firsthand how these provisions adversely impact those who served their community faithfully for decades, only to realize that they are not eligible for the benefits they planned to sustain their livelihood into retirement. As we continue to address Americans' rising cost of living, it is only reasonable to include the millions of public servants who, by no fault of their own, have seen their retirement vanish due to government failures. **While I remain a staunch budget hawk and steadfast in my support for proposals to restore fiscal sanity in our government, I also recognize that these funds are not our money. We must act to restore fairness to this broken system.**

I commend your willingness to hear from those impacted, and I stand ready to support the passage of this legislation.

Respectfully,

Clay Higgins  
Member of Congress