

CLAY HIGGINS
3RD DISTRICT, LOUISIANA

MEMBER, HOUSE FREEDOM CAUCUS



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

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BORDER, AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS
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SEAPOWERS AND PROJECTION FORCES

November 14, 2024

The Honorable John Thune
U.S. Senator
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Thune,

Congratulations on your new position as incoming Senate Majority Leader. I know you do not take this responsibility lightly. President-elect Trump's America First agenda will rest heavily on Congressional Leadership remaining in lockstep with the White House. However, before we take on this important task, another urgently awaits your immediate concern.

As I am sure you are aware, the *Social Security Fairness Act* (H.R. 82) passed the House on Tuesday, November 12 with 327 votes in favor. Importantly, a majority of both parties supported the bill's passage. **In the Senate, the companion legislation to H.R. 82 currently has 62 co-sponsors including 13 members of the Senate GOP Conference and notably our Vice President-elect.** There is a clear, bicameral, bipartisan consensus of support for passing this legislation.

This bill is not only one of the most co-sponsored in recent history, but it also has the support of nearly every major professional organization representing law enforcement, teachers, firefighters, and other public servants, including the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Association of Police Organizations, and the International Association of Fire Fighters.

For decades, both sides have recognized the failures of the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO). These provisions, originally meant to bring accountability to government benefits have stolen countless billions of dollars that rightly belong to our nation's senior citizens. In my home state of Louisiana, tens of thousands of retirees and surviving spouses are impacted each year.

There is only one bill that can end the injustice caused by WEP and GPO—H.R. 82, the *Social Security Fairness Act*. I urge you and your Senate colleagues to swiftly pass this bill and deliver long-delayed justice to millions of Americans.

Respectfully,

Clay Higgins
Member of Congress