



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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EXECUTIVE OFFICERS March 19, 2020

MICHAEL McHALE
President

Florida Police Benevolent Association

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

JOHN A. FLYNN
Vice President

Police Benevolent Association of New York City

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Chair
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

TODD HARRISON
Recording Secretary

Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas

SCOTT HOVSEPIAN
Treasurer

Massachusetts Coalition of Police

Dear Senators McConnell, Schumer, Grassley and Wyden:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I am writing to you to request that the Senate consider including the Social Security Fairness Act to the stimulus or emergency supplemental legislation you are currently working on in response to the impact of COVID-19 on our nation's health and economy.

MARC KOVAR
Sergeant-at-Arms

New Jersey State Policemen's Benevolent Association

CRAIG D. LALLY
Executive Secretary
Los Angeles Police Protective League

NAPO is a coalition of police units and associations from across the United States that serves to advance the interests of America's law enforcement through legislative and legal advocacy, political action, and education. Founded in 1978, NAPO now represents more than 1,000 police units and associations, 241,000 sworn law enforcement officers, and more than 100,000 citizens who share a common dedication to fair and effective crime control and law enforcement.

MARK YOUNG
Vice President,
Associate Members

Detroit Police Lieutenants & Sergeants Association

JAMES PALMER
Parliamentarian

Wisconsin Professional Police Association

With the continued spread of COVID-19, seniors and retirees are the most vulnerable population, both in regards to their health and retirement. The swift downturn of the stock market has no doubt impacted their retirement security and they need as much financial support as possible. This support can come swiftly in the form of increased Social Security benefits from a repeal of the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP).

Though most police officers must retire after specific time served, usually in their early to mid fifties, many look for new opportunities to serve their community. Yet, when they retire from a non-Social Security paying job and move to one that does pay into Social Security, they are penalized by the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). Instead of receiving full support from their rightfully earned Social Security retirement benefit, their pension heavily offsets it, thus vastly reducing the amount they receive.

More troubling is the effect of Government Pension Offset (GPO) on a police officer's retirement. If a spouse who paid into Social Security dies, the surviving public safety officer should be eligible for half of the deceased's benefit. However, GPO requires that this amount be offset by two-thirds of the survivor's pension, eliminating most or all of the

WILLIAM J. JOHNSON, CAE
Executive Director and
General Counsel

payment. By professional need, many police officers are outside of Social Security but if they had not served at all, they would receive the full allotment of the spouse's benefit.

GPO and WEP were meant as a "leveling" response but only serve to hurt public safety officers. The total repeal of both the GPO and WEP would have an immediate impact on preserving the retirement security of those who selflessly serve and protect our communities and helping to stabilize the economy.

NAPO strongly urges you to include the Social Security Fairness Act as part of the stimulus or emergency supplemental legislation being considered in response to COVID-19. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. If you have any questions, or if we can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me at: (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William J. Johnson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William J. Johnson, CAE
Executive Director