

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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EXECUTIVE OFFICERS December 23, 2024

MICHAEL MCHALE President Florida Police Benevolent Association

^E President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
^{The White House}
ⁿ 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
^N Washington, D.C. 20500

JOHN A. FLYNN Washington, D.C. 205 Vice President Police Benevolent Association of New York City Dear President Biden:

> CRAIG LALLY Recording Secretary Los Angeles Police Protective League

SCOTT HOVSEPIAN Treasurer Massachusetts Coalition of Police

KEITH CURRY Sergeant-at-Arms New Jersey State Policemen's Benevolent Association

SCOTT LEETON Executive Secretary Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas

MARK YOUNG Vice President, Associate Members Detroit Police Lieutenants & Sergeants Association

JAMES PALMER Parliamentarian Wisconsin Professional Police Association

REV. WESLEY McDUFFIE Chaplain Tarrant County, Texas Sheriff's Office

WILLIAM J. JOHNSON, CAE Executive Director and General Counsel On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), representing over 250,000 sworn law enforcement officers across the country, I write to urge you to sign H.R. 82, Social Security Fairness Act, into law as soon as practicable. Congress passed H.R. 82 by wide bipartisan margins, with the House passing it by a vote of 327-75 and the Senate 76-20.

The Social Security Fairness Act repeals the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO), which have a significant detrimental impact on our nation's public servants' Social Security retirement benefits. For over 40 years, the GPO and WEP have been harming the retirement security of public safety officers by taking away hard-earned, and much needed benefits simply because they chose a public service profession that mandates early retirement.

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 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.

The GPO and WEP take hard-earned benefits from the monthly Social Security checks of retired law enforcement officers, firefighters, teachers, nurses, and bus drivers. Our nation's public servants deserve their rightfully earned Social Security benefits. Therefore, we urge you to swiftly sign the Social Security Fairness Act into law.

Sincerely.

William J. Johnson, Esq. Executive Director