



March 3, 2009

Honorable John Tanner, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Social Security  
United States House of Representatives  
1226 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Tanner,

The Public Retirees of Ohio, represented by the following associations are asking for your support and passage of H.R. 235 (Social Security Fairness Act of 2009). We are the Public Employee Retirees of Ohio, the Police and Fire Retirees of Ohio, the Ohio Retired Teachers Association and the School Employee Retirees of Ohio, Inc. We represent a total of well over 1.5 million current and future benefit recipients.

We understand the original intent of these provisions were to adjust military pensions. Unfortunately, federal and state employees were unintentionally incorporated because of the language. We support efforts to repeal these laws, or at least phase them in, only after a monthly income threshold; however, not at the expense of mandatory Social Security coverage for new public employees. Those who protect, educate and serve are being denied their full Social Security benefits solely because they chose to serve the public. This is why we consider the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) to be very unfair laws. It was not until after they had retired, that many retirees discovered that they were not going to receive their full Social Security benefits. Many retirees are suffering because of their lost Social Security benefits. These benefits are by no means a "windfall" for our retirees; they simply mean the difference between poverty and self-sufficiency. Our members are only asking for the benefits that have accrued, based on their contributions.

Respectfully Submitted,

*William I. Winegarner*   *Gary L. Monto*   *Ann W. Hanning*   *Valerie Rodgers*

William I. Winegarner  
Administrator  
Public Employee  
Retirees, Inc.

Gary L. Monto  
President  
Police and Fire  
Retirees of Ohio

Ann Hanning  
Executive Director  
Ohio Retired  
Teachers Association

Valerie Rodgers  
Executive Director  
School Employee  
Retirees of Ohio, Inc.

Cc: Members, Subcommittee on Social Security