

05/31/2021

APPEAL TO POLISH AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of your organization, please consider endorsing the enclosed letter. The letter urges our U.S. congressional representatives and senators to support the Social Security Fairness Act of 2021 (H.R. 82) and (S. 1302), presently pending in the U.S. House of Representatives: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/82> and Senate: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/1302>

The proposed legislation eliminates the unfair "Government Pension Offset" (GPO) and "Windfall Elimination Provision" (WEP). GPO and WEP unfairly reduce Social Security payments of those who earned retirement benefits on work not covered by the Social Security (e.g., federal, state, local government employment, or employment in another country). The WEP provisions affect many legal immigrants, also Polish American retirees, who often have their Social Security benefits drastically reduced.

The support of your organization will strengthen the letter's impact. Let's end the unfair Windfall Elimination Provision! Join us! Have the Polish American voice heard on Capitol Hill!

Please fill in and submit the enclosed ACTION'S SUPPORT DECLARATION <https://pacmissouri.org/contact-us/actions-support-declaration/>

- Your name and organization will be placed on the letter to all members of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senators.
- You will get updates about the status of the initiative.

For more information see: <https://poradniksukces.com/wp/co-nowego-w-kongresie-o-windfall-elimination-provision/>

If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

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Klub Gazety Polskiej, Houston, TX

Robert Szydowski
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Krystyna Wilson
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Jacek Kawczyński – Commander
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Jim Mazurkiewicz
Polish American Council of Texas

LETTER TO THE CONGRESS

....., 2021

The Honorable

Re: The Social Security Fairness Act of 2021 (H.R. 82) (S. 1302)

Dear

Members of numerous Polish American organizations within the United States representing your constituents, and signed below, would like to thank you for your support or urge you to support, if you have not done so yet, the legislation H.R. 82 and S.1302, also known as "The Social Security Fairness Act of 2021."

The H.R. 82 and S. 1302 aims to repeal the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) from the existing Social Security Act. In addition to negatively impacting the disability benefits of many, these provisions are unfair to countless government workers and legal immigrants because they drastically reduce their Social Security retirement benefits (up to 50% of their non-Social Security pension). The GPO and WEP provisions are especially unjust towards legal immigrants whose small retirement pensions come from their native countries. Many of your constituents affected by these provisions fled persecution under repressive governments. These are primarily first-generation immigrants who retire with a very modest income, which combines social security benefits and foreign retirement. Their combined income frequently falls below the poverty threshold.

The legal immigrants did not have an option to work on jobs covered by the Social Security in their native country, therefore punishing them by cutting down their Social Security benefit is discriminatory and unjust. Their foreign pension is not, by any means, a WINDFALL.

We know that Congress has heard before from thousands of public employees about this issue but has not acted on the subject. We are asking for your help. You are empowered with the capacity and privilege to make a difference in many current and future retirees' lives. We urge you to support "The Social Security Fairness Act of 2021"; if enacted into law, it would restore a much-needed sense of justice to many retirees.

At the same time, **we request that you REJECT the recently introduced Bill H.R. 2337 known as "Public Servants Protection and Fairness Act of 2021"**. The submitted Bill unequally applies the WEP provision to different groups of retirees. The H.R. 2337 discriminates against public workers based on their retirement eligibility dates and discriminates against legal immigrants by not including them in the proposed law.

Please consider and support H.R. 82 and S.1302.

Best regards,

(List of Polish American Organizations supporting H.R. 82 and S. 1302)

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