

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 2, 2025

The Honorable Carolyn W. Colvin
Acting Commissioner
Social Security Administration
6401 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21235

Dear Acting Commissioner Colvin:

We write to express to you the importance of the swift implementation of the *Social Security Fairness Act*. On December 21, 2024, the Senate decidedly passed this bill by a vote of 76-20. The bill, which passed the House by a vote of 327-75, will restore earned Social Security benefits for millions of teachers, school cafeteria workers, custodians and other school employees, law enforcement officers, firefighters, and other public servants by repealing two provisions of current law—the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO).

Across the United States, millions of public servants have had their Social Security benefits cut through no fault of their own. Those who will benefit from the new law have earned these benefits. The GPO penalizes public servants who receive a noncovered pension and are also eligible to receive a Social Security spousal or widow(er)'s benefit. The GPO reduces Social Security spousal or widow(er)'s benefits by an amount equal to two-thirds of the noncovered pension. According to the Social Security Administration, in November 2024, more than 650,000 people were affected by the GPO. The WEP penalizes public servants who receive a pension from a job where they did not pay into Social Security, but who also worked long enough in another job to qualify for Social Security benefits. As of November 2024, more than two million people had their Social Security benefits reduced by the WEP.

The President is expected to sign the *Social Security Fairness Act* into law on January 6, 2025. Following this event, we ask that you swiftly implement the law in order to alleviate any further hardship on millions of Americans who have dedicated their lives to serving our communities. We also request regular updates regarding implementation of this law, including timelines that should reference notifications to beneficiaries, retroactive payments, and future payments.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator