



OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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The OEA will lead the way for continuous improvement of public education while advocating for members and the learners they serve.

May 19, 2023

The Honorable Jason Stephens
77 S. High St., 14th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Speaker Stephens:

On behalf of the 120,000 members of the Ohio Education Association, this letter is to express support for House Concurrent Resolution 6 (HCR 6). This resolution would urge Congress to repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO). These provisions of federal law unfairly punish many of Ohio's public servants by reducing their earned Social Security benefits or spousal/survivor benefits if they also receive a public pension.

Repeal of GPO/WEP is vital to so many Ohioans because Ohio public employees do not contribute to Social Security. Hundreds of thousands of public servants in the buckeye state are adversely affected. This penalty for public service may dissuade some from pursuing a career in our public schools. This further contributes to Ohio's teaching recruitment crisis.

For decades, OEA members and other affiliates of the National Education Association have urged Congress to fully repeal the GPO and WEP. Economic security in retirement is an important issue for all Americans. Repeal of these measures will help your constituents have greater security and stability in retirement.

HCR 6 has strong bipartisan support and was unanimously reported by the House Pensions Committee. OEA urges passage of HCR 6 by the Ohio House. Given the importance of this issue to the economic security of our members and other public servants in Ohio, this is a scorecard vote for OEA. We welcome any efforts by members of the General Assembly to work with their counterparts in Washington to advance the repeal of GPO/WEP.

Sincerely,

Scott DiMauro
OEA President

CC: Members of the Ohio House of Representatives

