



AUGUST 7, 2024

## WITH 62 BIPARTISAN COSPONSORS, BROWN AND COLLINS CALL ON SENATE LEADERSHIP TO PUT THE SOCIAL SECURITY FAIRNESS ACT ON THE SENATE FLOOR FOR A VOTE

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WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, U.S. Senators Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Susan Collins (R-ME) [called on](#) Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) to immediately put Brown and Collins' bipartisan **Social Security Fairness Act** on the Senate Floor for a vote. The legislation would restore full Social Security benefits for 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) – that unfairly reduce the Social Security benefits that public employees receive.

In addition to Brown and Collins, the legislation has 62 Senators as bipartisan cosponsors.

**“Across the United States, millions of public servants find that their Social Security benefits are cut through no fault of their own. Our Social Security Fairness Act now has a total of 62 bipartisan cosponsors, indicating it is strongly positioned to overcome a filibuster and move quickly. For this reason, we urge you to put the Social Security Fairness Act (S. 597) on the Senate floor as soon as possible,”** wrote Brown and Collins in their letter to Senate Leadership.

In June, as the Chairman of the Senate Finance Subcommittee on Social Security, Pensions, and Family Policy, Brown [held a field hearing in Columbus, Ohio](#) on the bill. The hearing featured two panels of Ohioans who shared their experiences and how their retirement security is threatened by two old, unfair provisions in law that unfairly cut the Social Security benefits they've earned through years of hard work.

More than 270,000 Ohioans, who dedicated their lives to public service, are prevented from receiving the full Social Security benefits they earn due to two laws from the 1970s and 1980s. The Windfall Elimination Provision, enacted in 1983, reduces the Social Security benefits of workers who receive pensions from a federal, state, or local government for employment not covered by Social Security. The Government Pension Offset, enacted in 1977, reduces Social Security spousal benefits for spouses, widows, and widowers whose spouses receive pensions from a federal, state, or local government. The *Social Security Fairness Act* would repeal both of these laws, ensuring law enforcement, firefighters, teachers, park rangers, and other public sector workers and their families receive the full Social Security benefits they earn.

The full letter is [HERE](#) or below.

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell:

Across the United States, millions of public servants find that their Social Security benefits are cut through no fault of their own. Our Social Security Fairness Act now has a total of 62 bipartisan cosponsors, indicating it is strongly positioned to overcome a filibuster and move quickly. For this reason, we urge you to put the Social Security Fairness Act (S. 597) on the Senate floor as soon as possible.

This bill repeals the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO), provisions of current law that unfairly reduce the Social Security benefits earned by nearly 3 million Americans, including police officers, fire fighters, teachers, and other public servants. These workers have dedicated their lives to serving our communities, and this small fix can help give them the peace of mind that the Social Security benefits they earned through covered employment will be there for them and their families when they retire.

Last month, the Senate Finance Subcommittee on Social Security, Pensions, and Family Policy held a field hearing in Columbus, Ohio on this legislation. We heard from witnesses working in education, law enforcement, and public safety about why these provisions are harmful to public servants and make communities less safe because they undermine recruitment efforts in both public safety and our school systems. Their message was clear: take up and pass S. 597 to restore the full Social Security benefits our public sector workers have earned.

The Social Security Fairness Act has been endorsed by a diverse set of organizations, including the National Education Association, American Federation of Teachers, Fraternal Order of Police, International Association of Firefighters, and American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. Our bill is cosponsored by Senators from 36 states, members of the Senate Finance Committee from both parties, including Chairman Wyden, the Senate Majority Leader, and the Ranking Member of the Senate HELP Committee. It is clear to a bipartisan majority of the United States Senate and our constituents that these provisions are patently unfair and must be repealed. We urge you to immediately schedule a vote for the Social Security Fairness Act.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

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