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CLYDE F. HAMNER Second Vice President 191 Godchaux Dr. Houma, LA 70360

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LOUISIANA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

9412 Common St., Suite 5 Baton Rouge, LA 70809 Telephone: (225) 927-8837 Fax: (225) 927-8838 www.lrta.net



Executive Director RODNEY R. WATSON

February 3, 2021

Rep. Garret Graves

Dear Rep. Graves:

My name is Rodney Watson, and I am the Executive Director for the Louisiana Retired Teachers Association (LRTA). We represent of 20,000 retired educators in Louisiana. I wanted to take a moment to **thank you** for cosponsoring H.R. 82 (Social Security Fairness Act of 2021) by Congressman Rodney Davis (R-IL-13) so quickly. Your swift action demonstrates your support of Louisiana's retired teachers and public servants regarding the WEP and GPO.

These penalties are drastic and cause financial hardship to many public servants and private sector employees who worked in specific public sector jobs. For over 30 years, retired teachers and public servants in Louisiana, as well as several other states, have suffered from the penalties of the GPO and WEP.

The repeal of the WEP and GPO would provide a source of economic relief to retired public sector employees during such an uncertain time. Cosponsoring H.R. 82 is a step in the right direction Thank you, again, for your prompt response regarding H.R. 82 and support of Louisiana's retired teachers.

If you would like to discuss this in further detail, I can be reached at watson@Irta.net.

Regards,

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Executive Director RODNEY R. WATSON

February 3, 2021

Rep. Clay Higgins

Dear Rep. Higgins:

My name is Rodney Watson, and I am the Executive Director for the Louisiana Retired Teachers Association (LRTA). We represent of 20,000 retired educators in Louisiana. I wanted to take a moment to **thank you** for cosponsoring H.R. 82 (Social Security Fairness Act of 2021) by Congressman Rodney Davis (R-IL-13) so quickly. Your swift action demonstrates your support of Louisiana's retired teachers and public servants regarding the WEP and GPO.

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If you would like to discuss this in further detail, I can be reached at watson@Irta.net.

Regards,

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Executive Director RODNEY R. WATSON

February 24, 2021

Rep. Steve Scalise

Dear Rep. Scalise:

My name is Rodney Watson, and I am the Executive Director for the Louisiana Retired Teachers Association (LRTA). We represent of 20,000 retired educators in Louisiana. I wanted to take a moment to **thank you** for cosponsoring H.R. 82 (Social Security Fairness Act of 2021) by Congressman Rodney Davis (R-IL-13) so quickly. Your swift action demonstrates your support of Louisiana's retired teachers and public servants regarding the WEP and GPO.

These penalties are drastic and cause financial hardship to many public servants and private sector employees who worked in specific public sector jobs. For over 30 years, retired teachers and public servants in Louisiana, as well as several other states, have suffered from the penalties of the GPO and WEP.

The repeal of the WEP and GPO would provide a source of economic relief to retired public sector employees during such an uncertain time. Cosponsoring H.R. 82 is a step in the right direction Thank you, again, for your prompt response regarding H.R. 82 and support of Louisiana's retired teachers.

If you would like to discuss this in further detail, I can be reached at watson@Irta.net.

Regards,

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Executive Director RODNEY R. WATSON

February 3, 2021

Rep. Mike Johnson

Dear Rep. Johnson:

My name is Rodney Watson, and I am the Executive Director for the Louisiana Retired Teachers Association (LRTA). We represent of 20,000 retired educators in Louisiana. You may be aware that retired teachers, along with retired public servants, in Louisiana are affected by the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO). The WEP and GPO unfairly penalizes retired teachers for earning a public pension. I am writing you today to ask you to **cosponsor H.R. 82** (Social Security Fairness Act of 2021) by Congressman Rodney Davis (R-IL-13), which calls for repeal of the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO).

These penalties are drastic and cause financial hardship to many public servants and private sector employees who worked in specific public sector jobs. In many cases, the WEP and GPO eliminates the majority of any Social Security benefit a retired teacher would be eligible for, whether from a spouse or from earnings through a previous private sector job. For over 30 years, retired teachers and public servants in Louisiana, as well as 15 other states, have suffered from the penalties of the GPO and WEP.

H.R. 82 is a bi-partisan bill that seeks to repeal the WEP and GPO and is already growing in support. This bill is similar to H.R. 141 (the Social Security Fairness Act of 2019), which you and 247 other members of Congress previously supported. Again, I **urge** you to cosponsor H.R. 82 today.

The repeal of the WEP and GPO would provide a source of economic relief to your constituents during such an uncertain time. In the past, lawmakers have promised to help seniors with various programs or reforms. These are hard times for seniors living on fixed incomes. Cosponsoring H.R. 82 would be a step in the right direction Thank you for taking the time to consider my request, and I look forward to hearing from you regarding H.R. 82.

If you require additional information or would like to discuss this in further detail, I can be reached at watson@lrta.net.

Regards,