

Chairwoman Roegner, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Government Oversight Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer proponent testimony on House Concurrent Resolution 6.

I worked many years in private sector, including several years as a second job because my Library Aide position with Celina City Schools was low pay, low hours and seasonal but I loved it. I was careful to work well over 40 quarters to be sure I would qualify for social security benefits. Imagine my surprise when meeting with SS workers after completing 37 years in my school career and learning my benefits would be reduced from potentially several hundred dollars to the \$51.00 I receive each month. What a shock and insult after working two jobs for many years and nothing to show for one of them.

Worse, My husband reduced his benefits when he retired so I would get his SS if he passed before I did. I've been penalized since 2014 for being a hard working, dedicated employee for more than 40 years of my life. I've accepted the reduced benefits but my fear for the future is if my husband passes before I do, I will lose his income from his 45 years of working with SS benefits.

With my small SERS pension, I won't be able to care for our home, as well as needing to hire people to maintain the yard, the pond, snow removal and the unforeseen plumbing, heating and roofing problems that go with home ownership. Physically it's impossible and financially it will be difficult, even with being diligent savers through our working years. My hope is that the WEP will be revisited and revised, if not abolished. At this stage of my 74 years, my hope is to have at least survivors benefits available from my husband's 50 years of labor and over two decades in a second job as a self employed photographer, while I assisted him.

As we face health changes that will alter our lifestyles, these concerns are real and constantly on my mind. Please revisit the issues I've mentioned and stop punishing those of us who worked nearly half a century, with expectations of the benefits we earned every day while working all those years! Please do something right and make changes now! Thank you for your time and I respectfully ask for your support of this legislation.

Respectfully,

Barbara A. Vorhees