



Northern Ohio Fire Fighters Association

P.O. Box 222, Mount Eaton, Ohio 44659

www.NOFF.org

April 10, 2024

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and Members Senate Government Oversight Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written proponent testimony in support of HCR 6 – To Urge the Congress of the United States to repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset.

The Northern Ohio Fire Fighters Association (NOFF) is made up of 20 local fire unions representing active and retired firefighters in five counties including Cuyahoga, Lake, Geauga Summit, and Medina Counties. Giving and being active in the community has been very important to NOFF. We have worked hard to raise considerable funding for various charities over the years; most notably the victims and their families on 9/11, Aluminum Cans for Burned Children 501(c)(3), our own Northern Ohio Firefighters Charities 501(c)(3), and the MetroHealth Burn Unit. We are honored to work to keep our neighborhoods safe and Ohio strong.

We sincerely appreciate the legislature's review of the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset. As you are well aware, the above current policies negatively impact those who have worked hard over the years as:

- Policies affect and undermine the financial security of pension system members.
- Reduce the Social Security benefits of public servants who receive a pension for public service that was not subject to Social Security taxes.
- Diminish nearly 150,000 Ohioans' retirement security and fails to recognize their rightfully earned Social Security and public pension benefits.
- Reduce the Social Security spousal or survivor benefit paid to an individual's spouse who receives a government pension based on the spouse's own public employment not covered by Social Security.

These provisions negatively impact our fellow Ohioans leading many to be in situations with diminished or without adequate retirement income. We respectfully feel it is time to correct these flawed policies. Thank you for your review of this important matter.

Sam Gmetro
President
The Northern Ohio Fire Fighters