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Committee Members,

My name is Angie Fair and I have been a dedicated public employee for almost 32 years for the Mercer County Clerk of Courts. I'm writing this letter today to appeal to you to repeal the Windfall Pension Provisions.

My husband passed away in April of 2020 at the age of 62. We are all one medical condition away from complete devastation. My husband was the "bread winner" of our household. I contacted the Social Security Office regarding widow benefits and was told that if I **didn't** have the PERS Pension I would be eligible for \$2489.00/month at the age of 60. Due to the pension, this amount is reduced further to \$1779.00/month, but because of another 2/3rds reduction I also **do not** qualify because of my salary. I also have worked under Social Security and have my 40 credits and I'm eligible for \$1106.00/month but due to my PERS Pension that amount will be reduced to \$548.00/month. My current retirement benefit is approximately \$3800.00/month before taxes and medical insurance. I'm sure that many of you on this committee would have a hard time living on that amount of money per month.

There are thousands of public employees that are facing these same situations. Public service employee's benefits should compete with the private sector. I feel like public employees are being punished because of the PERS Pension. If I would have known 32 years ago what I know today I would not have taken this path. Public service employees are not high-end wage earners. We all know that you can make more money in the private sector. When you apply for a public position, they sell you on the strong benefits. At one time they were, however, over the years public service employees have lost these benefits and are now far behind the private sector in comparison.

It's been an honor to serve my community and local government. I and many others shouldn't have to face additional financial challenges due to the Windfall Pension Provisions. As elected officials, you have the choice to honor public service employees instead of penalizing them for their service. With the system that is in place it will be harder to get future employees.

I would be happy to discuss this issue further with anyone that is willing to listen.

Sincerely,  
Angie Fair