



*The OEA will lead the way for continuous improvement of public education while advocating for members and the learners they serve.*

**House Concurrent Resolution 6: Proponent Testimony**  
**Senate Government Oversight Committee**  
**Wednesday, February 28, 2024**

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Mark Hill. I am a middle school math teacher from Worthington and have the honor of serving as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Ohio Education Association (OEA). On behalf of OEA's 120,000 members, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Concurrent Resolution 6 (HCR 6).

HCR 6 would urge Congress to repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO). These provisions of federal law unfairly punish public service by reducing the earned Social Security benefits and spousal/survivor benefits of many Ohioans who also receive a public pension. Because Ohio public employees do not contribute to Social Security, public employees in our state are often adversely affected by GPO/WEP. This is unfair to those who enter public service in our state and may serve to dissuade people from pursuing a career in our public schools.

For decades, OEA members and other affiliates of the National Education Association have urged Congress to fully repeal the GPO and WEP. Economic security in retirement is a critical issue for all Americans. Repeal of these measures will greatly help your constituents have greater security and stability in retirement.

There is clear bipartisan support for repeal efforts. Federal legislation (HR 82) has over 300 cosponsors; a majority of the US House. Companion legislation (S 597) is sponsored by Senator Sherrod Brown and cosponsored by Senator JD Vance. Similarly, HCR 6 unanimously passed the Ohio House (85-0) on December 6, 2023.

I want to thank the sponsors of HCR 6 for bringing this issue forward. I urge passage of HCR 6. We welcome any efforts by members of the General Assembly to work with their counterparts in Washington to advance the repeal of GPO/WEP.

Chair Roegner, this concludes my testimony. I am happy to answer questions from the committee.

