



Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters

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Jon D. Harvey, President

William E. Quinn, Secretary/Treasurer

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.

With decades of service and dedication, the Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters and its members support HCR 6, urging Congress to repeal the Federal Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP).

Our firefighters, EMTs and Paramedics put their lives on the line to keep our communities safe. They deserve to receive the benefits they have earned during their service. We must stand up for these individuals who have dedicated their lives to protecting us and our families. The strongly bipartisan federal legislation, H.R. 82/S. 597 – titled the Social Security Fairness Act of 2023, addresses the disparity under the WEP and GPO, which do not recognize the rightfully earned Social Security Benefit and public pension benefit. H.R. 82 will provide meaningful relief to current retirees and public employees while treating all workers fairly.

We thank you for your support of public safety throughout our great state. The OAPFF believes both the WEP and GPO are severely flawed in practical application and require repeal.

HCR 6 will send the correct signal from the Ohio Legislature to the U.S. Congress about the increasing need for action on the WEP. We sincerely appreciate Vice Chairwoman King and Representative Plummer for sponsoring HCR 6. We thank you, Chairman Young, and members of this committee for the thoughtful and thorough consideration of this resolution.

Thank you for your time and I respectfully ask for your support of this legislation.

Thank you,

Steven W. Stein, Director
Government Affairs OAPFF, AFL-CIO