



**Senate Government Oversight Committee  
HCR 6 Written Proponent Testimony  
April 10, 2024  
Written by Melissa Cropper,**

**President of the Ohio Federation of Teachers**

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking member Hicks-Hudson, and committee members, I am Melissa Cropper, President of the Ohio Federation of Teachers (OFT). OFT represents teachers in traditional and charter schools, support staff, higher education faculty and staff, social workers, library employees, and other public employees across Ohio. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HCR 6.

OFT and the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) have long advocated ending the Windfall Elimination Programs and Government Pension Offset. WEP and GPO affect the standard of living for almost two million Ohio retired public employees and surviving spouses. In addition, Ohio teachers and teachers in 14 other states have been, are being, and will be affected, and millions of current in-service employees who, upon retirement, earned benefits are being significantly reduced or eliminated for affected retirees.

Between the enactment of 1983 and 2005 WEP/GPO, employers did not inform employees or prospective employees that their employment would not include participation in the Social Security system, thereby making them subject to the WEP and GPO. As a result, most current in-service public employees affected by the provisions are unaware of the penalties they or their spouses will incur upon eligibility for any Social Security benefits they have earned from other employment. There have been unsuccessful legislative attempts in recent years to address the unfairness propagated by these provisions.

OFT supports HCR 6's call for full repeal of the Windfall Elimination Program, and we hope the sponsor would add the Government Pension Offset program to the resolution. This concludes my testimony.