

CHARLIE MELANCON
3RD DISTRICT, LOUISIANA



WASHINGTON OFFICE
404 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4031

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
AND COMMERCE
COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

DISTRICT OFFICES:
8201 WEST JUDGE PEREZ DRIVE
CHALMETTE, LA 70043
(504) 771-1707
828 SOUTH IRMA BLVD., SUITE 107
GONZALES, LA 70737
(225) 621-8490
423 LAFAYETTE STREET, SUITE 107
HOUMA, LA 70360
(985) 876-3033
124 EAST MAIN STREET
SUITE 220-A
NEW IBERIA, LA 70560
(337) 367-8231

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

June 11, 2008

Ms. Connie Carlton
State President
Retired State Employees Association
1200 South Acadian Thrwy, Suite 213
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806

Dear Ms. Carlton:

I hear almost daily from retirees in south Louisiana who are struggling to make ends meet and want the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) repealed. I share their concerns and have supported a full repeal of both measures since I came to Congress in 2005. In 1983, Congress made an effort to address looming Social Security insolvency by creating the WEP and GPO, which intended to prevent overgenerous Social Security payments to workers who also had non-Social Security-covered employment. While the WEP and GPO were meant to prevent duplicative or windfall benefits for workers who have sizable incomes and pensions, in reality they adversely affect hundreds of thousands of public employees, like state workers, public safety officers, and school teachers, whose pensions are, on average, not large enough to cover their retirement expenses. These workers depend on Social Security to supplement their retirement income.

Over 300 Members of Congress recognize the problem caused by the WEP and GPO and support their full repeal. The difficulty now lies with the cost of the repeal. The Congressional Budget Office and Social Security actuaries estimate the cost of the repeal would be over \$70 billion. I continue to work with my colleagues to find a way to pay for the full repeal of the WEP and GPO and stop this unfair reduction of your Social Security benefits.

Sincerely,


Charlie Melancon
MEMBER OF CONGRESS