



**RETIRED STATE EMPLOYEES
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April 27, 2010

Honorable Charles W. Boustany, Jr.
U.S. House of Representatives
1117 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-1807

Dear Representative Boustany,

The Louisiana Retired State Employees Association (RSEA) is a non-profit organization that represents more than 38,000 men and women who have served in state government and are now retired. Our primary goal is to make a significant difference in the lives and well-being of both current and future retirees by protecting retirement benefits and assuring access to affordable and effective health benefits.

Many of these men and women have seen their planned retirements severely impacted by the Windfall Elimination (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) provisions of the Social Security Act. In spite of having become eligible for Social Security benefits either through their own earnings or those of their spouses, they find their benefits drastically reduced or eliminated altogether by these provisions.

We have written to you before about this issue, and you have supported efforts to repeal both of those provisions. We are writing again to ask you to support another bill, HR 1221, that would help reduce the impact of the WEP on public retirees.

The bill, introduced by Congressman Kevin Brady, does not repeal the WEP, but does amend the formula so that it reduces the impact of that provision on public retirees. According to comments made by Congressman Brady at a recent meeting in Washington, D.C., the cost of implementing the legislation would be \$8 to \$10 billion over 10 years rather than the \$40 to \$50 billion cost of a full repeal.

We think this is reasonable alternative to full repeal and ask that you consider becoming a co-sponsor of HR1221.

Thank you all your work on behalf of the citizens of Louisiana.

Sincerely,

Allen Reynolds
Executive Director