

By: Neave

H.C.R. No. 100

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, Tens of millions of American workers and their  
2 families count on Social Security to provide a reliable minimum  
3 income in their retirement; and

4           WHEREAS, Almost 50 percent of married couples and 75 percent  
5 of unmarried persons age 65 and older depend on Social Security for  
6 more than half of their total retirement income, and nearly a  
7 quarter of the married couples and almost half of the unmarried  
8 persons receive 90 percent or more of their income from the program;  
9 and

10           WHEREAS, The Government Pension Offset (GPO), enacted in  
11 1977, and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), enacted in  
12 1983, severely and unfairly penalize recipients of public pensions;  
13 and

14           WHEREAS, The GPO effectively prohibits some retirees from  
15 collecting both their own pension and full social security benefits  
16 as a surviving spouse; an estimated 9 out of 10 public employees  
17 affected by the GPO lose their entire spousal benefit, even though  
18 their spouses paid social security taxes for many years; and

19           WHEREAS, The WEP, which affects benefits paid under Title II  
20 of the Social Security Act, lowers Social Security benefits for  
21 employees with public pensions, including teachers, law  
22 enforcement officers, and firefighters, as well as for their  
23 spouses and children, and can deprive a retiree of more than \$425 a  
24 month in social security benefits duly earned by that individual;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, These provisions in practice have had devastating  
3 consequences for employees who worked for many years as public  
4 servants including teachers, police officers, firefighters, and  
5 other public servants; almost two million employees and retirees  
6 are affected by either the GPO or the WEP or both; and

7 WHEREAS, The GPO and WEP as applied to public employees cause  
8 tens of thousands of Texas retirees to experience a diminished  
9 quality of life or be forced to return to work to make up for the  
10 effects of these provisions; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas  
12 hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to  
13 repeal the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination  
14 Provision of the Social Security Act; and, be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official  
16 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to  
17 the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of  
18 Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the  
19 members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that  
20 this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a  
21 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.