

By: Neave

H.C.R. No. 25

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 nearly \$450 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 86th 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.