

By: Lambert

H.C.R. No. 39

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) was
2 enacted by Congress in 1983 to help shore up the financing of the
3 Social Security program; and

4 WHEREAS, Intended to eliminate a "windfall" for certain
5 workers, the WEP reduces the Social Security benefits of a person
6 who also receives a pension from a government job not covered by
7 Social Security; and

8 WHEREAS, The WEP penalizes teachers, firefighters, police
9 officers, and other government employees who choose to serve their
10 communities in jobs not covered by Social Security; when these
11 public servants earn Social Security benefits from other work, they
12 should receive those benefits in full without being penalized
13 because of their public service; and

14 WHEREAS, This punitive provision affects a teacher who does
15 not earn Social Security benefits working in the public schools but
16 does earn them working part-time or during the summer; under the
17 WEP, the teacher's Social Security benefits are reduced by as much
18 as 40 percent even though the teacher paid into the Social Security
19 system just like other workers; likewise, the provision discourages
20 qualified, talented individuals in the private sector from choosing
21 public service if they have to sacrifice earned Social Security
22 benefits from their private sector work; and

23 WHEREAS, A very real inequity is created for police officers,
24 who often retire earlier than other government employees and begin

1 a second career that requires them to pay into the Social Security
2 system; police officers who had second careers face as much as a 40
3 percent cut to their Social Security benefits; and

4 WHEREAS, The WEP unfairly reduces the Social Security
5 benefits of many Texans who devoted much of their careers to public
6 service; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas
8 hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to
9 eliminate the Windfall Elimination Provision from the Social
10 Security program; and, be it further

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