



September 9, 2020

The Honorable -----  
Address -----

RE: The Social Security Fairness Act (H.R.141 / S.521)

Dear Congressman -----

We, your constituents, and members of Polish American organizations within the United States have serious concerns that have prompted us to write you. We urge you to lend your support to H.R.141 / S.521 , also known as "The Social Security Fairness Act."

The bill aims to repeal the Government Pension Offset (GOP) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) from the existing Social Security Act. In addition to negatively impacting disability benefits, these provisions are unfair to countless government workers and legal immigrants because they unfairly reduce, and in some cases eliminate, their social security retirement benefits.

The GPO and WEP provisions are unjust towards legal immigrants whose small retirement pensions come from their native countries. Many of your constituents who are affected by these policies fled persecution under repressive governments. These are mostly first-generation immigrants who — unable to complete a traditional employment timeline, thus earning full benefits in the U.S. — retire with very modest social security benefits. Shockingly, their retirement income from both countries combined is frequently still below the poverty threshold. Their hard-earned foreign pension should not be considered within the windfall formula, as it unjustly penalizes the individual.

We are asking for your help. You are empowered with the capacity and privilege to make a difference in many current and future retirees' lives. Therefore, we urge you to support "The Social Security Fairness Act." If passed, it would eliminate the punitive character of both provisions and restore a much-needed sense of justice to many retirees.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Edward W. Jeśman, President  
Polish American Strategic Initiative  
and Polish American Congress of Southern California  
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