

Call to Action! Repeal WEP Now!

Ask Your **Senator** to co-sponsor Senate bill S.597 - the Social Security Fairness Act!

Below are EMAIL and CALL scripts - follow these easy steps:

1. [Click here](#) and enter the **Zip Code** where you last lived in the U.S. It will display your Senators and their contact information.
2. [Click here](#) to see if your Senators are already co-sponsors.
3. Customize the scripts below to - ask them to co-sponsor S.597 - or - thank them for being a co-sponsor.
4. Email or Call their office - better yet, do both!
5. Email seniorscaucus@democratsabroad.org Subject line: "Co-Sponsor DONE" to let us know that you contacted your Senators.

Good luck and Many thanks,

Betsy Ettorre, Chair, Global Seniors Caucus

Brendan Read, Chair, Seniors Caucus WEP Committee

Email Script 1 - Ask them to Co-Sponsor

Subject: Please co-sponsor the bipartisan bill S. 597 by Sherrod Brown and Susan Collins

Dear Senator _____,

Great News! H.R. 82, the bipartisan companion bill to S. 597 to repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO), now has 50 co-sponsors, and a Field Hearing was held by the House Ways and Means Committee on November 20, 2023 that received broad support from legislators and witnesses.

The American people have entrusted Congress to champion fairness in its legislation. However, the WEP and GPO clearly undermine this trust by unfairly affecting retirees nationwide.

I strongly encourage the Senator to co-sponsor S. 597, a bipartisan bill that addresses these inequities and ensures deserving Americans receive their lawfully earned Social Security benefits.

The WEP unfairly reduces the monthly Social Security pension check of foreign pension recipients -- Americans who worked abroad and foreign nationals who legally immigrated to the States -- and public servants, such as teachers whose state and local government employers have signed a Section 218 agreement with the Social Security

Administration. The GPO unfairly reduces or denies spousal and survivor benefits that were lawfully earned.

(Tell here, in your own words how the WEP and, if applicable, the GPO has impacted you and/or your spouse now. Or fear that it will impact you/them in the future when you/they do retire).

Now is the time to take action to repeal these two unjust penalties. Please co-sponsor the bipartisan bill S. 597 by Sherrod Brown (OH) and Susan Collins (ME) to move this issue to the forefront.

Thank you,
[Your Name]

Email Script - THANK them for Co-Sponsoring

Subject: Thank you for co-sponsoring H.R.597 - the Social Security Fairness Act

Dear Senator _____,

Thank you for your co-sponsorship of H.R.597, the companion bill to HR.82 - the Social Security Fairness Act. As you may know, on November 20, 2023, a successful field hearing was held in the House for the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO). There was broad and enthusiastic support from legislators and witnesses for repealing these unjust Social Security penalties. H.R. 82 has received overwhelming bipartisan support as confirmed by its **300+ cosponsors**. I appreciate your consideration and look forward to your help in repealing the WEP and GPO penalties in the 118th Congress.

Thank you,
[Your Name]

CALL Script

If your Senator co-sponsored this bill

I want to thank the Senator for promising to support S.597 Social Security Fairness Act. I/My family relies on the security that my paid-in contributions provide for a secure future in my retired years.

If your Senator has not co-sponsored this bill

Hello, I am a constituent who votes in [CITY/TOWN, STATE], but I am currently residing in and calling from [CITY, COUNTRY]. I was hoping to speak to the Senator or their staffer

about the repeal of the Social Security Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) that impacts your constituents like me who live outside the United States.

I am calling to ask Senator _____ to co-sponsor S.597 - the Social Security Fairness Act.

I strongly encourage the Senator to support S.597. It would provide more fairness to the Social Security program and security for retired senior constituents in our state.

[Personalize your message using ideas from this script]

I am an ordinary US citizen. I moved to [Country] to [be with my partner/family/to take a job/other]. I am not wealthy. The complexity of investing for retirement due to double taxation of mutual funds and the unwillingness of banks in and outside the U.S. allowing pre-retirees to hold accounts and contribute to new investments, has left my pension funds lacking.

Most of the urgent need for WEP repeal has been focused on and sympathizing with retired public servants and teachers at home, even with their prior knowledge about WEP deductions on their future Social Security because of their non-covered pensions.

But Americans living abroad often have worked at least part of their careers within the U.S. contributing to Social Security. Later, we entered the confusing and complicated environment of preparing for retirement while living abroad.

WEP applies to most people who receive both a pension from non-covered work (including certain foreign pensions) and Social Security benefits based on fewer than 30 years of substantial covered employment or self-employment earnings. Spousal Social Security benefits are also unfairly eliminated due to WEP, making my family's long-term financial stability more worrying.

The rules for WEP and the calculation for the deduction are complicated. This leaves many retirees in the dark until they get the bad news that their paid-for benefits are being cut. Adding to this, the complexity of the Foreign Equalization Treaties and taxation of passive investing income affecting U.S. citizens abroad hinders us from properly preparing for our retirement. Sometimes we cannot even open a retirement account inside or outside the States for various reasons.

The current WEP law is punishing and unfair. Can we expect to see the congress(wo)man co-sponsor S.597 Social Security Fairness Act?

I am (will be) personally affected by these WEP deductions, so this issue an important voting consideration for me, when I vote by absentee ballot. I hope that you can assure me that this bill will reach the floor for vote in this legislative session because American retirees living abroad are counting on you.

Thank you for your time listening to my concerns.