

House Concurrent Resolution No. 19

93RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1456L.011

1 **Whereas**, the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination
2 Provision (WEP) of the federal Social Security Act penalize people who have dedicated their
3 lives to public service by taking away benefits they have earned; and
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5 **Whereas**, nine out of ten public employees affected by the GPO lose their entire
6 spousal benefit, even though their spouse paid Social Security taxes for many years; and
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8 **Whereas**, the WEP causes hard-working people to lose up to sixty percent of the
9 benefits they earned themselves; and
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11 **Whereas**, many workers rely on misleading Social Security Administration
12 statements that fail to take into account the GPO and WEP when projecting benefits; and
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14 **Whereas**, the impact of the GPO and WEP is not just felt in those states in which
15 public employees, including educators, are not covered by Social Security, because people move
16 from state to state and affected individuals are everywhere; and
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18 **Whereas**, the GPO and WEP apply to all vested members of the Public School
19 Retirement System of Missouri; and
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21 **Whereas**, the number of people affected across the country is growing every day
22 as more and more people reach retirement age; and
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24 **Whereas**, some 300,000 individuals lose an average of \$3,600 a year due to the
25 GPO which can make the difference between self-sufficiency and poverty; and
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27 **Whereas**, these people have less money to spend in their local economy and
28 sometimes have to turn to expensive government programs like food stamps to make ends meet;
29 and
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31 **Whereas**, during a national teacher shortage, the GPO and WEP discourage people
32 from entering and staying in the teaching profession, since doing so will mean a loss of earned
33 Social Security benefits; and
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35 **Whereas**, the GPO and WEP are also causing current educators to leave the
36 profession and students to choose courses of study other than education; and
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38 **Whereas**, non-Social Security states are finding it increasingly difficult to attract
39 quality educators as more people learn about the GPO and WEP; and
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41 **Whereas**, the nation should respect, not penalize, public service; and
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43 **Whereas**, the GPO and WEP are established in federal law and repeal of the GPO
44 and WEP can only be enacted by the United States Congress:
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46 **Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the members of the House of
47 Representatives of the Ninety-third General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate
48 concurring therein, hereby urge the Congress of the United States to immediately repeal the
49 Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision of the Social Security Act; and
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51 **Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
52 Representatives be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the
53 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives
54 and the members of the Missouri Congressional delegation.