

House Concurrent Resolution No. 39

93RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

5506L.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 Social Security Administration statements that fail
12 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**, these people have less money to spend in their local economy and
25 sometimes have to turn to expensive government programs like food stamps to make ends meet;
26 and
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28 **Whereas**, during a national teacher shortage, the GPO and WEP discourage people
29 from entering and staying in the teaching profession, since doing so will mean a loss of earned
30 Social Security benefits; and
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32 **Whereas**, the GPO and WEP are also causing current educators to leave the
33 profession and students to choose courses of study other than education; and
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35 **Whereas**, non-Social Security states are finding it increasingly difficult to attract
36 quality educators as more people learn about the GPO and WEP; and
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38 **Whereas**, the nation should respect, not penalize, public service; and
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40 **Whereas**, the GPO and WEP are established in federal law and repeal of the GPO
41 and WEP can only be enacted by the United States Congress:
42

43 **Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the members of the House of
44 Representatives of the Ninety-third General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate
45 concurring therein, hereby urge the Congress of the United States to immediately repeal the
46 Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision of the Social Security Act; and
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48 **Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
49 Representatives be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the
50 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives
51 and the members of the Missouri Congressional delegation.