



# American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO

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## LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

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### APWU Supports Fair Benefits for America's Seniors

America's seniors have earned their benefits. The sad truth remains that despite their contributions, current provisions and calculations have placed an undue amount of financial burden on those who already paid their fair share into the system.

APWU supports the expansion of senior benefits, with fair increases to Social Security, Cost-of-Living Adjustments based on calculations that adequately take into consideration the spending habits of seniors, and the repeal of predatory provisions which penalize those who paid their fair share into Social Security.

### Social Security Fairness Act of 2021 (H.R. 82 / S. 1302)

Lead Sponsors: Rep. Rodney Davis (D-IL-13) and Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH)

The Social Security Fairness Act of 2021 was introduced in the House on January 4, and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means. The bill was re-introduced in the Senate on April 22 and referred to the Committee on Finance.

#### If passed, this bill would:

- Repeal the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provisions (WEP).
  - ✧ The GPO reduces Social Security benefits to spouses or widows by two-thirds if they are currently receiving a retirement or disability pension based on prior employment, during which they did not pay into Social Security.
  - ✧ The WEP affects those who receive a pension from employment where they did not pay into Social Security but did qualify for Social Security benefits from other employment.

Unfairly, these two provisions penalize individuals for their previous employment under the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS), even though they met the requirements for Social Security benefits.

The bill currently has 306 cosponsors in the House and 42 cosponsors in the Senate. On September 21, 2022, the House Ways and Means Committee advanced the bill out of their committee, and toward the floor for a vote. While the immediate future of the bill is unclear, APWU is urging all members of Congress to support the bill, and request an immediate floor vote.

### APWU Retiree Activism



View our commercial featuring long-time APWU Retiree Byron Denton on the APWU website! <https://www.apwu.org/apwu-ol-timer-support-postal-workers-and-public-us-postal-service>

*Byron Denton, retired postal worker, age 92*