

APWU NEWS Bulletin

MARK DIMONDSTEIN, President JUDY BEARD, Editor

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BIDEN SIGNS SOCIAL SECURITY FAIRNESS ACT, REPEALS WEP-GPO

DETAILS AVAILABLE ON SOCIAL SECURITY FAIRNESS HOTLINE 202-630-4342

On Jan. 5, 2025, President Joe Biden signed *The Social Security Fairness Act* into law. This legislation rights a decades-old wrong, and wins economic justice for postal, federal, and public-sector retirees by repealing the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO). Passing it was the main legislative goal of the APWU in 2024.

H.R. 82 passed 76-20 in the Senate on Dec. 21, following a similarly strong bipartisan vote in the House of Representatives when it passed 327-75.

For years, APWU members have been fighting to repeal these decades old Social Security laws that unfairly penalized postal and federal Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) retirees by severely reducing the earned Social Security Benefits for recipients and surviving spouses despite meeting the requirements for Social Security benefits and paying their fair share into the program.

This fall, during the 2024 congressional session, the APWU was able to help push the legislation over the finish line with our activism, strong advocates from both parties on Capitol Hill, and a powerful coalition of union allies united in solidarity.

“The passage of H.R. 82 gains real justice and is a tremendous victory,” declared APWU President Mark Dimondstein. “I want to thank the key cosponsors of the bill, Representatives Garret Graves (R-LA-06) and Abigail Spanberger (D-VA-07) on the House side and Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Sherrod Brown (D-OH) on the Senate side for their principled stand and determination. I salute the activism of our members, especially our retirees, who made phone calls, rallied, met with elected

officials, spoke to the media, and helped ensure that every hurdle was overcome to finally get this long-sought legislation over the finish line.”

Getting the bill from the House to the Senate was no easy feat. The bill’s cosponsors held a press conference on Sept. 19 to rally support for a discharge petition that could force a vote on the House floor. APWU members around the country jumped into action and urged their representatives to sign the petition. Our efforts were successful, and the bill moved forward.



Scan to learn more about SSFA implementation

Once the House vote was announced, APWU members mobilized once again to urge their representatives to vote “yes!” A coalition of public-sector retirees from the National WEP/GPO Repeal Task Force, including Retirees Director Nancy Olumekor and APWU retiree members, went to Capitol Hill to speak to congressional staffers, hand out informational fliers, and ask representatives for their support. It passed the House that night by an overwhelming majority.

H.R. 82 then moved to the Senate for consideration.

A week before the vote, labor leaders and union members rallied in the pouring rain outside the Capitol, advocating for its passage before the congressional session ended.

Then-Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer joined the rally and pledged to bring the bill to the floor for a vote, which he did. “We simply could not have achieved this level of bipartisan support without the continued activism of our members,” said APWU Legislative and Political Director Judy Beard. “Your stories made national headlines and allowed us to put pressure on Congressional leaders to finally correct this decades-long injustice. When we fight together, we win!”



Legislative and Political Director Judy Beard addresses rally to call H.R. 82 to a Senate vote.



APWU President Mark Dimondstein with Sen. Susan Collins at the bill signing ceremony.



APWU Retirees Director Nancy Olumekor takes APWU retirees to Capitol Hill with a coalition of other union members to tell Congress about the importance of passing H.R. 82.



(Left to Right) APWU President Mark Dimondstein with APWU member Yvonne Huntley, Rep. Abigail Spanberger, Legislative and Political Director Judy Beard, Retirees Dept. Director Nancy Olumekor, and Rep. Garret Graves.



APWU Retirees Director Nancy Olumekor hands out fliers on the importance of H.R. 82.



Sen. Sherrod Brown with Legislative and Political Director Judy Beard at the bill signing ceremony.