

December 13, 2024

The Honorable John Kennedy
United States Senate
437 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kennedy,

We are writing to you as the administrators of the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System (LASERS) and the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL) to urge your support for the Social Security Fairness Act of 2023, which would repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO).

These unfair provisions have negatively impacted approximately 90,000 Louisiana public servants for four decades. Our dedicated teachers, firefighters, police officers, and other public employees who have earned both a government pension and Social Security benefits through additional employment are being unjustly penalized.

Implemented in the 1980s, the provisions reduce Social Security benefits by up to half the pension amount under WEP and up to two-thirds under GPO for our public servants. This systematic reduction of earned benefits has created significant financial hardship for many of our retirees who dedicated their careers to public service.

The House has already demonstrated strong bipartisan support for this legislation, passing HR 82 with a decisive 327-75 vote. With 61 co-sponsors in the Senate, there is clear momentum for this crucial reform.

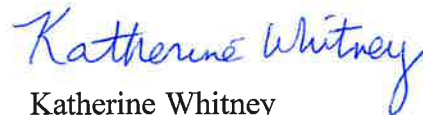
We are particularly encouraged by Senator Cassidy's recent statement acknowledging that "We can repeal WEP and GPO with the Social Security Fairness Act today if the majority leader schedules a vote." This recognition of the urgency of this matter is appreciated.

As representatives of Louisiana's public pension systems, we strongly encourage you to support this legislation when it comes to a vote. Your support would demonstrate a commitment to fairness for our public servants who have served our state with distinction.

Sincerely,



Bernard E. "Trey" Boudreaux, III
Executive Director, LASERS



Katherine Whitney
Director, TRSL

cc: The Honorable Bill Cassidy, MD
