

# STATE OF ALASKA THE LEGISLATURE

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Urging the United States Congress to repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset of the Social Security Act.

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## **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

**WHEREAS** public employees, while employed by the State of Alaska or a political subdivision of the state that participates in the Public Employees' Retirement System of Alaska, are ineligible by law to earn Social Security credits; and

**WHEREAS** teachers, while employed by a school district that participates in the Teachers' Retirement System of Alaska, are ineligible by law to earn Social Security credits; and

**WHEREAS** provisions of the Social Security Act known as the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset reduce the amount of social security benefits public employees and teachers might otherwise receive if they qualify for Social Security benefits; and

**WHEREAS** the Windfall Elimination Provision substantially reduces Social Security benefits earned by public employees and teachers; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2021, a Social Security benefit reduction by the Windfall Elimination

Provision may be as much as \$498 a month for each recipient; and

**WHEREAS** the Government Pension Offset reduces Social Security spousal and survivor benefits for recipients of Social Security spousal or survivor benefits who also receive a benefit from a public employees' or teachers' retirement system; and

**WHEREAS** the Government Pension Offset may reduce the Social Security monthly benefit payment, for a current or former public employee or teacher who is eligible to receive a benefit, by an amount equal to two-thirds of the amount the public employee or teacher receives from a public employees' or teachers' retirement system each month; and

**WHEREAS** nothing in the relationship between the Public Employees' Retirement System of Alaska, the Teachers' Retirement System of Alaska, or similar public employees' or teachers' retirement systems and Social Security legally or financially justifies a policy of reducing the amount of Social Security benefits earned by public employees or teachers for military service, including civilian military service, or time worked in the private sector; and

**WHEREAS** the lowest-earning public employees and teachers are disproportionately and negatively affected by the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset; and

**WHEREAS** public employees and teachers who reside in the state are disproportionately and more negatively affected, per capita, by the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset, than public employees and teachers who reside in any other state or territory in the United States; and

**WHEREAS** persons who are eligible to earn Social Security credits for work in the private sector or in active or civilian military service are deterred from becoming public employees or teachers by the negative effects of the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset; and

**WHEREAS** the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset impair the ability of state and local governments to recruit and retain public school teachers, police officers, firefighters, and other public employees; and

**WHEREAS** bipartisan legislation has been introduced in the 117th United States Congress to address the Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Congress to pass legislation eliminating the Windfall Elimination Provision and Government

Pension Offset.

**COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President of the United States; the Honorable Kamala D. Harris, Vice President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Xavier Becerra, United States Secretary of Health and Human Services; the Honorable Miguel Cardona, United States Secretary of Education; the Honorable Andrew Saul, Commissioner of the Social Security Administration; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the U.S. Representative for Alaska, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.