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June 18, 2024

BRIAN L. RENFROE President Dear Chairman Brown, Ranking Member Tillis, and members Subcommittee on Social Security, Pensions, and Family Policy,

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SANDRA D. LAEMMEL CHARLES P. HEEGE We are submitting these comments on behalf of the Ohio State Association of Letter Carriers (OHSALC), which represents more than 14,000 active and retired city letter carriers.

First, we would like to express our appreciation for the field hearing held in Columbus, OH, on June 7. It is important and powerful to hear civil servants share their stories about how the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO) unfairly affect them. Unfortunately, these are stories we know all too well since these provisions negatively impact our members in Ohio and nationwide.

As you know, the WEP and GPO wrongfully reduce or sometimes eliminate the benefits that letter carriers and other public workers have paid into and earned throughout their careers.

Letter carriers spend their working lives serving their communities and providing an essential service that all Americans rely on. We are lifelines for seniors who need medications. We ensure our customers receive paychecks and bills on time. We deliver essential packages six and sometimes seven days a week. We are proven devoted public servants who deserve to receive the full Social Security benefits that we have earned.

Our retired members, who are living on fixed incomes, are not asking for anything extra. We, alongside millions of other public employees, are asking you to repeal the WEP and GPO so that we can receive the benefits we are entitled to and enjoy the modest retirement that we worked for and expected.

This benefit reduction does not happen in the private sector, and if it did, it would likely be tried in court. We must do better by treating our public servants better. We cannot allow the government to keep taking from our earned retirement benefits. It is time to finally repeal the WEP and GPO, with your help and support.

We appreciate your consideration of the Social Security Fairness Act (S. 597), and the OHSALC strongly urges the committee to mark up the legislation.

Sincerely,

Brian L. Renfroe President, National Association of Letter Carriers

Jeff Kranz

President, Ohio State Association of Letter Carriers