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HOUSE MAJORITY SUPPORTS SOCIAL SECURITY FAIRNESS ACT *FOP Debuts Informational Video Calling for WEP/GPO Repeal*

Patrick Yoes, National President of the Fraternal Order of Police, welcomed news that H.R. 141, the “Social Security Fairness Act,” is now cosponsored by a majority of the Members of the U.S. House of Representatives. As of this morning, the legislation has 223 cosponsors, including 3 non-voting delegates. The Senate bill, S. 521, has 35 cosponsors—more than a third of that body.

“This is a very important milestone for the FOP and for this bill,” Yoes said. “We’re continuing to work with our allies in the House, as well as the groups that are part of our Public Safety Working Group on Social Security Fairness to increase our support for the legislation in both the House and the Senate.”

The FOP also released an informational video aimed at law enforcement officers and other public employees explaining the impact of the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO). The WEP affects workers who spent some time in jobs not covered by Social Security and also worked other jobs where they paid Social Security taxes long enough to qualify for retirement benefits. Like the WEP, the GPO may reduce the benefit received by surviving spouses if these spouses also receive a surviving spousal benefit from a public pension.

“The WEP and GPO provisions do not eliminate a windfall for workers, it is a cut to the benefits they earned and are denied because they also served the public. That’s not right and it’s not fair,” Yoes said. “Congress should repeal these inequitable provisions and pass the ‘Social Security Fairness Act.’”

The Fraternal Order of Police is the largest law enforcement labor organization in the United States, with more than 349,000 members.

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