



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

328 MASSACHUSETTS AVE., N.E.
WASHINGTON, DC 20002
PHONE 202-547-8189 • FAX 202-547-8190

CHUCK CANTERBURY
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

JAMES O. PASCO, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

12 July 2016

The Honorable Kevin P. Brady
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sander M. Levin
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman and Representative Levin,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our strong support for two amendments offered by Representative William J. Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ) to H.R. 711, the "Equal Treatment for Public Servants Act."

The amendments will substantially improve H.R. 711 to the benefit of our nation's most visible public employees—law enforcement and other public safety officers who are disparately impacted by the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) in current law. The FOP has been a leader in a long effort to completely repeal the WEP but we have for many years supported your approach and your bill, Mr. Chairman, because we believe it will benefit many of our members.

We believe, as you do, that this is an issue of fairness. When the WEP was enacted in 1983, its stated purpose was to remove a "windfall" for persons who spent some time in jobs not covered by Social Security (like public employees) and also worked other jobs where they paid Social Security taxes long enough to qualify for retirement benefits. This provision has created a very real inequity for many public employees, particularly police officers, who retire earlier than other government employees to begin second careers which require them to pay into the Social Security system. Law enforcement officers who have second careers face a sixty percent (60%) cut to their Social Security benefits. This is a reduction of a benefit to which they are entitled because they paid into the system—not an adjustment for a "windfall."

Your legislation repeals the WEP and would calculate benefits as if all the worker's earnings were subject to Social Security taxes using the standard benefit formula. To ensure Social Security benefits are based only on Social Security wages, the benefit would be multiplied by the percent of earnings subject to Social Security taxes.

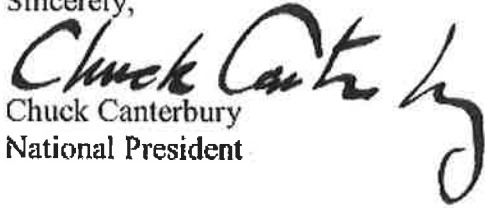
However, under the formulas proposed by the bill some of our members will be worse off—those who have thirty or more years in Social Security-covered employment and those who have planned out their career paths to specifically minimize the negative impact of the existing law on

— BUILDING ON A PROUD TRADITION —

their benefits. Representative Pascrell's amendments would address both these circumstances and we strongly support their adoption. Their adoption will make a good bill better and the FOP will be proud to work closely with you both and with the Committee to advance this legislation on the House floor.

I want to thank you both for your consideration of the views of the more than 330,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police and urge you both and all Members of the Committee to support the Pascrell amendments and the underlying bill. If I can be of any additional assistance on this or any other issue, please do not hesitate to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco in my Washington, D.C. office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chuck Canterbury". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent "C" at the beginning and a long, sweeping tail that loops back under the name.

Chuck Canterbury
National President