

**INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF
FIRE FIGHTERS**



**NATIONAL
FRATERNAL ORDER
OF POLICE**

August 16, 2024

The Honorable Garret N. Graves
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Abigail D. Spanberger
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Graves and Spanberger,

We are writing on behalf of the members of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) and the National Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), to advise you of our strong endorsement for efforts to support a discharge petition on H. Res. 1410, which will bring H.R. 82, the “Social Security Fairness Act,” to the floor of the House.

Throughout this Congress, the FOP and IAFF have worked with Republican and Democratic Members and their staff to build support for and pass H.R. 82—which is one of the most bipartisan bills in the House. Our intent was to move this bill through regular order, and for the past year and a half, we have held good-faith negotiations with the Committee on Ways and Means to do just that. However, with the end of the 118th Congress approaching, our members demand Congress repeal this denial of the Social Security benefits which they paid for and earned. We urge all House members to sign your discharge petition and end this shameful denial of benefits for retired public servants.

As you know, the Social Security Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) are antiquated Social Security provisions that deny hard-earned retirement benefits for hundreds of thousands of retired first responders. Chronically low wages for our members often force these public servants to seek second jobs to keep their families afloat. These men and women paid into Social Security through their second jobs but are denied their benefits simply because they devoted decades of their lives to public service. Our members don’t expect a career in public service to make them rich, but they do expect fairness.

A successful discharge petition will give the House an opportunity to vote on a bill which is already cosponsored by 75% of Representatives. The FOP and IAFF, representing hundreds of thousands of public safety employees in every region of the country, strongly support your efforts to get 218 signatures on this discharge petition.

Sincerely,

Edward A. Kelly
General President
International Association of Fire Fighters

Patrick Yoes
National President
National Fraternal Order of Police