

## INTERNATIONAL UNION OF POLICE ASSOCIATIONS

THE ONLY UNION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

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September 30, 2024

The Honorable Sherrod Brown, Chairman Senate Finance Subcommittee Committee Social Security, Pensions and Family Policy 503 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

## Dear Senator Brown:

On behalf of the International Union of Police Associations, (I.U.P.A.) I urge you to bring the Social Security Fairness Act to a vote in committee and send it to the Senate floor. The International Union of Police Associations, AFL-CIO, represents rank and file, activeduty law enforcement professionals across this great nation, including the U.S. territories of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Many of our members serve and protect those in the Great State of Ohio.

More than 270,000 Ohioans, who dedicated their lives to public service, are prevented from receiving the full Social Security benefits they earned due to two laws from the 1970s and 1980s. The Windfall Elimination Provision, enacted in 1983, reduces the Social Security benefits of workers who receive pensions from a federal, state, or local government for employment not covered by Social Security. The Government Pension Offset, enacted in 1977, reduces Social Security spousal benefits for spouses, widows, and widowers whose spouses receive pensions from a federal, state, or local government.

The Social Security Fairness Act would repeal both of these laws, ensuring law enforcement, firefighters, teachers, park rangers, and other public sector workers and their families receive the full Social Security benefits they earn. These are not entitlements, but earned and paid for benefits that they have been denied. Also, it should be noted that the government pensions they received outside of Social Security were also paid for by these men and women. Many held second jobs during their careers so that they could properly support their families. They also worked following their retirements.

There are enough co-sponsors of this critical legislation to make its passage a reality, if given the chance.

We look forward to working with you and your staff to see this critical legislation move forward.

Very Respectfully,

Sam A. Cabral

International President