



MEMO

TO: All Members of the I.U.P.A.
FROM: Sam A. Cabral, International President
SUBJECT: Social Security Fairness Act
DATE: January 6, 2025

The I.U.P.A. team has worked for decades to pass the Social Security Fairness Act. The measure repeals two tax rules, the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset, that reduce benefits for those with public pensions from jobs that weren't subject to Social Security taxes, such as teachers, first responders, and other government employees.

Success was achieved on December 21st when Congress passed the bill. It then went to President Biden, who signed it on January 5th.

What will it do?

1. Increased Monthly Benefits: Retirees affected by WEP will gain an average of \$360 per month, while those impacted by GPO could see increases of \$700 to \$1,190 per month, depending on spousal or survivor status.
 1. Eligibility: Nearly 3 million public-sector retirees, including teachers, police officers, and postal workers, will benefit from the repeal of these provisions.
 2. Retroactive Payments: Eligible beneficiaries will receive backdated payments starting January 2024.
2. It will impact any person who has a pension *outside of Social Security, but also worked enough quarters within Social Security to earn benefits.*

3. While the exact dollar amount will vary depending on individual circumstances, it's clear that the act will result in a significant increase in benefits for millions of affected retirees. The legislation aims to correct what many view as an unfair reduction in earned benefits, potentially restoring hundreds of dollars per month to qualifying retirees.
4. Benefits will be accrued with the beginning date of January 1, 2024.
5. A worksheet may be found at: <https://www.ssa.gov/prepare/government-and-foreign-pensions>