

NEA Retired Legislative Committee met October 10, by zoom.

Millions of retirees lose Social Security benefits under Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision (GPO/WEP) federal legislation. Repeal of the provisions are a priority for NEA, and other public employee unions. There is bipartisan support for repeal, and a “discharge petition” reached the necessary 218 signatures in September, to force the House Speak to bring the Social Security Fairness Act to the floor for a vote,

NEA members alone have sent 180,000 messages to the current Congress asking for signatures to a “discharge petition”. The bill is expected to be voted on in November by the Lame Duck Congress. Minnesota Representatives who signed the petition are Angie Craig (CD2), Dean Phillips (CD3), Betty McCollom (CD4), Pete Stauber (CD8). There is bipartisan support in the Senate with 62 cosponsors, enough to overcome the 60 vote threshold to bring it to the floor.

NEA is asking members to thank Representatives who signed the petition and ask them to vote Yes on the Social Security Fairness Act when it comes to the floor. (Some GOP Representatives discussed changing the “discharge petition” practice so it’s possible the bill will not get a vote in the House.)

Other actions requested by NEA

- Urge your Congressperson to support the Senate’s appropriation funding levels.
- Ask your Congressperson to cosponsor Ethan’s Law (S.173/H.660) to require safe storage of firearms.
- Encourage your Senator to bring to the floor as many judicial nominations as possible for a vote, and confirm them before the end of the session.
- Ask your Senators to support President Biden’s nomination of Suzanne Summerlin as General Counsel of the Federal Labor Relations Authority.