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March 20, 2020

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
U.S. Senate
503 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-3505

The Honorable Susan Collins
U.S. Senate
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-1904

The Honorable Rodney Davis
U.S. House of Representatives
1740 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-1313

The Honorable Adam Schiff
U.S. House of Representatives
2269 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0528

Dear Senator Brown, Senator Collins, Representative Davis, and Representative Schiff:

On behalf of our 3 million members and the 50 million students they serve, I urge you to support including the Social Security Fairness Act (S. 521/H.R. 141) in the coronavirus legislative package to help financially struggling retirees. Votes on this issue may be included in NEA's Report Card for the 116th Congress.

Where we are today

- For retirees, the coronavirus is a double whammy threatening to ruin both their health and finances.
- Many are already unable to make ends meet, especially those whose Social Security benefits are unfairly reduced—or lost entirely—due to the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP).
- These hard-working Americans deserve better.

How GPO/WEP work

- The GPO reduces the Social Security benefits of people not covered by Social Security themselves.
- The WEP reduces the Social benefits of people who work in jobs covered by Social Security and jobs NOT covered by Social Security over the course of their careers—for example, educators compelled to take part-time or summer jobs to make ends meet.

Why action is needed

- Together, the GPO and WEP deprive 2.5 million retired public servants of Social Security benefits they have earned—educators, police officers, firefighters, and other state and local government employees.
- The Social Security Fairness Act (S. 521/H.R. 141) repeals both the GPO and WEP and has long enjoyed strong, bipartisan support in Congress.

We urge you to include the Social Security Fairness Act, which fully repeals both the GPO and WEP, in the coronavirus legislative package.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association