



March 17, 2016

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Chairman, House Committee on Ways & Means
301 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sam Johnson
Chairman, Social Security Subcommittee
2304 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Brady and Chairman Johnson,

On behalf of the 1.3 million members of AMAC, the Association of Mature American Citizens, I write today in support of H.R. 711, the *Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act of 2015*. This important piece of legislation would amend title II of the Social Security Act to replace the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) with a fair, equitable way of calculating Social Security benefits for state and local employees who receive pension benefits not covered by Social Security. This bill offers a commonsense approach to calculating benefits for millions of otherwise confused Social Security beneficiaries who currently fall under the WEP, and for future beneficiaries whose retirement would be affected by the WEP.

As stated in current law, Social Security benefits for millions of state and local workers tend to be significantly reduced to offset the benefits paid out by their non-covered state or local pension plan. The current calculations in the WEP can be both confusing and cumbersome to both the would-be beneficiary and the Social Security Administration (SSA) when calculating benefits. This confusion leads to the over compensation of hundreds of thousands of recipients, and under compensation for over a million more. H.R. 711 offers a simple, timely approach to remedy a problem decades in the making.

With roughly 15.3% of the nation's population holding jobs in the public sector, it is of the utmost importance that those planning to retire, and those currently retired have the assurance they will be properly compensated throughout their retirement. H.R. 711 establishes a new formula for the treatment of non-covered service performed after 1977, prescribes a second formula to modify the WEP for current beneficiaries, and enacts cost-saving measures by directing the commissioner of Social Security to recover overpayments. With these pivotal changes to the law, public servants can rest assured they will be properly equipped and compensated for retirement.

As an organization committed to representing the interests of mature Americans and seniors, AMAC is dedicated to ensuring senior citizens' interests are protected. We applaud Chairman Brady, Chairman Johnson, and their respective staffs for their commonsense, timely, and forward-thinking solution that will positively benefit millions of individuals currently retired and preparing to retire nationwide. AMAC is pleased to offer our organization's full support to the *Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act of 2015*.

Sincerely,

Dan Weber
President and Founder of AMAC