

House Concurrent Resolution No. 4

95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES NOLTE (Sponsor), WILSON (130),
JONES (89) AND NIEVES (Co-sponsors).

3834L.011

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

2 **Whereas**, the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination
3 Provision (WEP) of the federal Social Security Act penalize people who have dedicated their
4 lives to public service by taking away benefits they have earned; and
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6 **Whereas**, nine out of ten public employees affected by the GPO lose their entire
7 spousal benefit, even though their spouse paid Social Security taxes for many years; and
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9 **Whereas**, the WEP causes hard-working people to lose up to sixty percent of the
10 benefits they earned themselves; and
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12 **Whereas**, many workers rely on Social Security Administration statements that fail
13 to take into account the GPO and WEP when projecting benefits; and
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15 **Whereas**, the impact of the GPO and WEP is not just felt in those states in which
16 public employees, including educators, are not covered by Social Security, because people move
17 from state to state and affected individuals are everywhere; and
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19 **Whereas**, the GPO and WEP apply to all vested members of the Public School
20 Retirement System of Missouri; and
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22 **Whereas**, the number of people affected across the country is growing every day
23 as more and more people reach retirement age; and
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25 **Whereas**, these people have less money to spend in their local economy and
26 sometimes have to turn to expensive government programs like food stamps to make ends meet;
27 and
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29 **Whereas**, during a national teacher shortage, the GPO and WEP discourage people
30 from entering and staying in the teaching profession, since doing so will mean a loss of earned
31 Social Security benefits; and
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33 **Whereas**, the GPO and WEP are also causing current educators to leave the
34 profession and students to choose courses of study other than education; and
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36 **Whereas**, non-Social Security states are finding it increasingly difficult to attract
37 quality educators as more people learn about the GPO and WEP; and
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39 **Whereas**, the nation should respect, not penalize, public service; and
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41 **Whereas**, the GPO and WEP are established in federal law and repeal of the GPO
42 and WEP can only be enacted by the United States Congress:
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44 **Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the members of the House of
45 Representatives of the Ninety-fifth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate
46 concurring therein, hereby urge the Congress of the United States to immediately repeal the
47 Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision of the Social Security Act; and
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49 **Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
50 Representatives be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the
51 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives
52 and each member of the Missouri Congressional delegation.