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November 3, 2007

Senate Committee on Finance
Attn. Editorial and Document Section
Rm. SD-203
Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510-6200b

Ref: November 6, 2007 Subcommittee on Social Security, Pensions, and Family Policy: GPO and WEP:
Policies Affecting Pensions from Work Not Covered by Social Security

Dear Senator Kerry,

The publicly employed retirees of Ohio wish to submit a "Statement for the Record" for your upcoming November 6, 2007 subcommittee hearings pertaining to the Social Security GPO and WEP provisions.

The Public Employee Retirees Incorporated, representing over 150,000 retirees and family members view the GPO/WEP provisions as unfair. It is our understanding that these provisions were originally passed to prohibit members of the military from receiving both a military pension and social security, and further that State employees were grafted into the provisions because the original wording was not specific enough.

Many of our retirees accepted lower pay in order to serve in the public sector; consequently, their pensions are already minimal. The reduction of most, if not all, of their Social Security benefits impose a severe penalty upon them.

These unfair provisions cause great hardship on many of our loyal retired public servants here in Ohio, and in other states across the nation.

We ask that this committee, recognize these inequities, and do everything in its power to secure the repeal of these provisions as they apply to State public servants.

Thank you for your considerations in this matter.

Sincerely,



William I Winegarner
Administrator



"Partners in Retirement"