



# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

*Representing America's Finest*

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## EXECUTIVE OFFICERS March 19, 2020

**MICHAEL McHALE**  
President

*Florida Police Benevolent Association*

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**JOHN A. FLYNN**  
Vice President

*Police Benevolent Association of New York City*

The Honorable Charles Grassley  
Chair  
Committee on Finance  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Finance  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**TODD HARRISON**  
Recording Secretary

*Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas*

**SCOTT HOVSEPIAN**  
Treasurer

*Massachusetts Coalition of Police*

Dear Senators McConnell, Schumer, Grassley and Wyden:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I am writing to you to request that the Senate consider including the Social Security Fairness Act to the stimulus or emergency supplemental legislation you are currently working on in response to the impact of COVID-19 on our nation's health and economy.

**CRAIG D. LALLY**  
Executive Secretary

*Los Angeles Police Protective League*

NAPO is a coalition of police units and associations from across the United States that serves to advance the interests of America's law enforcement through legislative and legal advocacy, political action, and education. Founded in 1978, NAPO now represents more than 1,000 police units and associations, 241,000 sworn law enforcement officers, and more than 100,000 citizens who share a common dedication to fair and effective crime control and law enforcement.

**MARK YOUNG**  
Vice President,  
Associate Members

*Detroit Police Lieutenants & Sergeants Association*

With the continued spread of COVID-19, seniors and retirees are the most vulnerable population, both in regards to their health and retirement. The swift downturn of the stock market has no doubt impacted their retirement security and they need as much financial support as possible. This support can come swiftly in the form of increased Social Security benefits from a repeal of the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP).

**JAMES PALMER**  
Parliamentarian

*Wisconsin Professional Police Association*

Though most police officers must retire after specific time served, usually in their early to mid fifties, many look for new opportunities to serve their community. Yet, when they retire from a non-Social Security paying job and move to one that does pay into Social Security, they are penalized by the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). Instead of receiving full support from their rightfully earned Social Security retirement benefit, their pension heavily offsets it, thus vastly reducing the amount they receive.

More troubling is the effect of Government Pension Offset (GPO) on a police officer's retirement. If a spouse who paid into Social Security dies, the surviving public safety officer should be eligible for half of the deceased's benefit. However, GPO requires that this amount be offset by two-thirds of the survivor's pension, eliminating most or all of the

**WILLIAM J. JOHNSON, CAE**  
Executive Director and  
General Counsel

payment. By professional need, many police officers are outside of Social Security but if they had not served at all, they would receive the full allotment of the spouse's benefit.

GPO and WEP were meant as a "leveling" response but only serve to hurt public safety officers. The total repeal of both the GPO and WEP would have an immediate impact on preserving the retirement security of those who selflessly serve and protect our communities and helping to stabilize the economy.

NAPO strongly urges you to include the Social Security Fairness Act as part of the stimulus or emergency supplemental legislation being considered in response to COVID-19. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. If you have any questions, or if we can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me at: (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William J. Johnson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William J. Johnson, CAE  
Executive Director