

November 7, 2024

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

Dear Majority Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the undersigned law enforcement associations, we write to express our strong support for the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R.82 / S. 597), which would restore the retirement security of millions of our nation's public servants. As you plan for the lame duck session, we expect the House to take up and pass H.R. 82 the week of November 12, after which we urge you to swiftly bring this important bill up for a vote.

As a cosponsor of S. 597, you understand the detrimental impact the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO) have on public servants' Social Security retirement benefits. For over 40 years, the GPO and WEP have been harming the retirement security of our nation's public safety officers by taking away hard-earned, and much needed benefits simply because they chose a public service profession that mandates early retirement.

While initially meant as a "leveling" response, in recent years the GPO and WEP have been used to prolong the life of the Social Security Trust Fund on the backs of our nation's public servants, who have been experiencing across the board cuts to their hard-earned retirement benefits. By totally repealing both the GPO and WEP, the Social Security Fairness Act would preserve the retirement security of those who selflessly serve and protect our communities.

H.R. 82 currently has 329 bipartisan cosponsors and S. 597 has 62 cosponsors. The Social Security Fairness Act has the support necessary to pass Congress by a vast majority if those who state they support this bill and our nation's public servants hold true and continue to stand with us. It is time to put words into action and finally pass this vital legislation. We are counting on you to ensure this legislation is given due consideration and is brought to the floor for a vote.

We thank you for your support for the Social Security Fairness Act and we look forward to working with you to ensure the final passage of this important bill.

Sincerely,

Michael McHale
President
National Association of Police Organizations

Steve Roumeliotis
President
Garden City Police Benevolent Association

William Waring
President
Metropolitan Transportation Authority Police Benevolent Association

William Bourguignon
President
Nassau County Detectives Association

Thomas Shevlin
President
Nassau County Police Benevolent Association

Ricky Frasseti
President
Nassau County Superior Officers Association

Michael O'Meara
President
Police Conference of New York

James Griglio
President
Port Authority Lieutenants Benevolent Association

Frank Conti
President
Port Authority Police Benevolent Association, Inc.

Robert Zafonte Jr.
President
Port Authority Sergeants Benevolent Association

Vincent J. Vallelong
President
Sergeants Benevolent Association, NYPD

George Michels
President
Suffolk County Detectives Association

James Gruenfelder
President
Suffolk County Superior Officers Association

Kevin E. Boyle, Jr.
President
United Public Service Employees Union - COPS Division

David Stone
Executive Director
Arizona Conference of Police and Sheriffs

Jobe Dickinson
Executive Director
Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Arizona

Darrell Kriplean
President
Phoenix Law Enforcement Association

Richard Pippin
President
Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriff's

Craig Lally
President
Los Angeles Police Protective League

Thomas J. Brackin
Executive Director
Delaware State Troopers Association

John Kazanjian
President
Florida Police Benevolent Association
Palm Beach County Police Benevolent Association

Robert Cavaco
President
State of Hawaii Organization of Police Officers

Sean M. Smoot
Director & Chief Legal Counsel
Police Benevolent & Protective Association of Illinois

Fred Lepley
President
Judy Kellen
Past-President
Iowa State Police Association

Larry Calderone
President
Boston Police Patrolmen's Association

Matthew Anderson
President
Boston Police Patrolmen's Association – EMS Division

Scott A. Hovsepian
President
Massachusetts Coalition of Police

Mark Young, Lieutenant
President
Detroit Police Lieutenants and Sergeants Association

Craig Miller
President
Detroit Police Officers Association

Dan Smith
Executive Director
Montana Police Protective Association

Troyce Krumme
Chairman
Las Vegas Police Managers and Supervisors Association

Steve Grammas
President
Las Vegas Police Protective Association

Peter Andreyev
President
New Jersey State Policemen's Benevolent Association

Daniel Oliveira
President
New Jersey State Troopers Non-Commissioned Officers Association

Frank Serratore
President
New Jersey State Troopers Superior Officers Association

Tom Austin
Executive Director
Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association

Sgt. Aaron Schmautz
President
Portland Police Association
Oregon Coalition of Police & Sheriffs

Marvin Ryals
President
Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas

R. Scott Leeton
President
Corpus Christi Police Officers' Association

Jim Palmer
Executive Director
Wisconsin Professional Police Association

Sonya Hightower-LaBosco
Executive Director
Air Marshal National Council

Enclosure: Police Benevolent Association of the City of New York Memorandum in Support
of H.R. 82 & S. 597 Social Security Fairness Act



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF H.R.82 & S.597
SOCIAL SECURITY FAIRNESS ACT

On behalf of more than 50,000 active and retired members of the Police Benevolent Association of the City of New York, I write to express our strong support for H.R.82 and S.597, the Social Security Fairness Act. While these federal offset provisions do not apply to New York City police officers, a similar set of state-level offset provisions reduce the pension payments for many of our members once they are eligible for social security. We, therefore, stand with our law enforcement brothers and sisters across the nation to support the repeal of these unjust and unnecessary financial burdens on police families.

Policing is a noble calling, but the men and women who put their lives on the line for our communities deserve to be able to secure their families' financial future, as well. The security provided through a government pension remains one of the primary reasons police officers sign up for the job and carry out this difficult and dangerous work, as police officers and our families understand that social security benefits alone are often not enough to live independently in retirement. Unfortunately, government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions under title II of the Social Security Act restrict many police families across the U.S. from fully enjoying the financial stability that they have earned during their careers.

Pension and social security offset provisions at the federal and state levels are an enormous liability that needlessly hamstring police officers during their retirement. These provisions punish police officers for making responsible life-planning decisions and devalue the critical work we perform during our years of public service. At a time when police departments across the country are grappling with severe understaffing, these offsets further exacerbate the staffing crisis by deterring talented individuals from pursuing law enforcement careers in the first place.

The Social Security Fairness Act would repeal the unjust offset provisions that reduce social security benefits for police families. This bill would alleviate the nationwide police staffing shortage by encouraging prospective law enforcement officers to pursue a government

POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, INC.

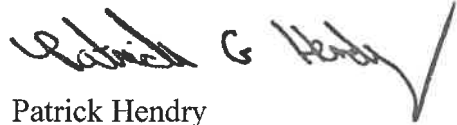
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pension. And it would place fewer financial burdens on retired police officers and our families, enabling greater financial independence later in life.

The New York City PBA strongly urges passage of the Social Security Fairness Act — because no police officer should be punished for pursuing a government pension.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick G. Hendry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Patrick Hendry
President