



Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

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February 5, 2015

The Honorable Kevin Brady  
House of Representatives  
301 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: The Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act, HB 711

Dear Representative Brady,

On behalf of the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) and the more than one million individuals who depend on OPERS for their retirement security, we are writing to convey our gratitude to you for your efforts to reform the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP).

Due to the creation of OPERS prior to Social Security, the vast majority of Ohio's public employees do not contribute to Social Security. They may have worked in previous employment that is covered by Social Security and as a result, many of them will be subject to the WEP upon retirement. In many cases, we have received feedback that they did not realize the extent to which their Social Security benefit would be reduced by the WEP. We appreciate your work to introduce legislation to replace the current WEP formula with a more equitable version that provides Ohio's public employees with the Social Security benefits they have earned.

We look forward to working with you and your legislative aide, Aindriu Colgan, on this legislation. If you have any questions, please contact us at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen E. Carraher".

Karen E. Carraher  
Executive Director