

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

Government Relations



Social Security: GPO & WEP

OPERS supports legislative solutions that would ensure our members' Social Security benefits are fairly calculated.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Issue: Current federal law hurts workers who have service time in the public and private sectors. It also hurts the workers' surviving spouses.

- Social Security's Windfall Elimination Provision, which affects workers, and Government Pension Offset, which affects spouses, potentially limits the amount public-sector workers may collect if they qualify for Social Security benefits. This affects Ohio public employees because our members do not contribute to Social Security.
- The more critical issue is keeping Ohio a non-Social Security state for public-sector workers so our members can retain the retirement security they have now.
- Recent reports have put the price at repealing WEP and GPO at tens of billions over 10 years. Making up for this cost could result in all states being mandated to join Social Security for its public employees.
- For more detailed information on the GPO and WEP and the affect they may have on your Social Security benefit, contact your local Social Security Administration office. To find a local office, visit the SSA website, <http://www.ssa.gov/gpo-wep/>, or call 800-772-1213.