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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States of America has enacted both the Government Pension Offset, which reduces the spouse and survivor Social Security benefit, and the Windfall Elimination Provision, which reduces the earned Social Security benefit payable to any person who also receives a public pension benefit; and

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WHEREAS, The Government Pension Offset negatively affects a spouse or survivor receiving a federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefit who would also be entitled to a Social Security benefit earned by a spouse; and

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WHEREAS, The Government Pension Offset formula unfairly reduces the spouse or survivor Social Security benefit by two-thirds of the amount of the federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefit received by the spouse or survivor, in many cases completely eliminating the Social Security benefit even though the survivor's spouse paid Social Security taxes for many years; and

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WHEREAS, The Government Pension Offset has a harsh effect on hundreds of thousands of citizens and undermines the original purpose of the Social Security dependent and survivor benefit; and

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1 WHEREAS, According to the Congressional Research Service,
2 more than 700,000 people nationally are affected by the
3 Government Pension Offset and approximately 2,000,000 people
4 nationally are affected by the Windfall Elimination Provision;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, In certain circumstances, both the Windfall
7 Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset can be
8 applied to a qualifying survivor's benefit, each independently
9 reducing the available benefit and, in combination,
10 eliminating a large portion of the total Social Security
11 benefit available to the survivor; and

12 WHEREAS, The calculation characteristics of the Government
13 Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision have a
14 disproportionately negative effect on employees working in
15 lower-wage government jobs, such as police officers,
16 firefighters, teachers, and state employees; and

17 WHEREAS, Illinois is making every effort to improve the
18 quality of life of its citizens and to encourage them to live
19 in the State, yet the Government Pension Offset and Windfall
20 Elimination Provision compromise their quality of life; and

21 WHEREAS, The number of people affected by the Government

1 Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision is growing
2 every day as more and more people reach retirement age; and

3 WHEREAS, Individuals affected by the Government Pension
4 Offset or Windfall Elimination Provision may have no choice
5 but to return to work after retirement in order to earn enough
6 income to provide for their basic needs, but the earnings
7 accumulated during this return to work can further reduce the
8 Social Security benefits to which the individual is entitled;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, The Government Pension Offset and Windfall
11 Elimination Provision are established in federal law, and the
12 repeal of the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall
13 Elimination Provision can only be enacted by Congress;
14 therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL
16 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF
17 REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING HEREIN, that we urge the Congress
18 of the United States to enact legislation to repeal the
19 Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination
20 Provision from the Social Security Act and for President Joe
21 Biden to sign that legislation into law; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be sent

1 to the President of the United States, the Vice President of
2 the United States, and the entire Illinois congressional
3 delegation.