

RESOLUTION NO. 055-2024(COTW), *Second Reading*

By Vice President Russell

A Resolution supporting U.S. House Bill 82 (H.R. 82), the Social Security Fairness Act, sponsored by Rep. Graves (R-LA-6), the companion bill U.S. Senate (S. 597), sponsored by Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH), which seeks the elimination of the Government Pension Offset (“GPO”) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (“WEP”).

WHEREAS, the Social Security Fairness Act H.R. 82 aims to rectify the inequities posed under current tax law by the Government Pension Offset (“GPO”) and Windfall Elimination Provision (“WEP”) on retirees’ Social Security benefits; and

WHEREAS, the GPO and WEP unfairly reduce or eliminate Social Security benefits for individuals who have earned both a government pension and Social Security benefit through other employment, disproportionately impacting public servants; and

WHEREAS, these provisions create undue financial hardship for retirees who have dedicated their careers to public service, often leaving them with significantly reduced retirement incomes and undermining the financial security they rightfully deserve in their golden years; and

WHEREAS, the elimination of the GPO and WEP would provide much needed relief to countless retirees across the nation, allowing them to access the full benefits they have earned through their contributions to both Social Security and government pension programs; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cleveland Heights recognizes the invaluable contributions made by public servants to our communities and believes in upholding fairness and dignity for all retirees.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, OH that:

Section 1. The Council of Cleveland Heights hereby expresses its full support for the pending Social Security Fairness Acts, H.R. 82 and S.597 and urges Congress to pass this critical legislation without delay.

Section 2. This Council calls upon federal lawmakers to prioritize the elimination of the Government Pension Offset (“GPO”) and Windfall Elimination Provision (“WEP”) to ensure equitable treatment of retirees who have dedicated their careers to public service.

Section 3. This Council commits to advocating for the rights and well-being of all retirees, including those affected by the GPO and (WEP and will actively engage with federal representatives to champion this cause.

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Section 4. This Council pledges to raise awareness within the community about the impact of the GPO and WEP on retirees' financial security and encourages residents to join in the efforts to support the Social Security Fairness Acts pending in the House and the Senate.

Section 5. That the Clerk of Council is hereby directed to transmit copies of this resolution to the majority and minority leadership in the United States Congress, and to members of the Ohio Congressional delegation urging their support for the Social Security Fairness Act.

Section 6. This Resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest time permitted by law.



TONY CUDDA
President of Council



ADDIE BALESTER
Clerk of Council

PASSED: May 6, 2024

Presented to Mayor: 05/07/2024 Approved: 05/16/2024



KAHLIL SEREN
Mayor