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## 33 Years of Feminism From Marching in the Streets to a Seat at the Table

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April 2, 2021

The Honorable Rodney Davis  
2079 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
Email: [Jimmy.Ballard@mail.house.gov](mailto:Jimmy.Ballard@mail.house.gov)

RE: HR 82 (R.Davis) Social Security Fairness Act of 2021- SUPPORT

Dear Congressman Davis,

On behalf of the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee (SBWPC), I am writing to express support for HR 82 addressing unfair Social Security penalties, especially the Government Pension Offset (GPO). SBWPC's mission is dedicated to furthering gender equality and other feminist values through political and social action. Our organization is one of the largest women's political committees in Santa Barbara County, CA with approximately 300 members. We advocate for a diverse set of positions which include work and financial fairness and equity <https://sbwpc.org/positions/>.

Two unfair Social Security penalties steal paid-for benefits from seniors. Although the Ways and Means Committee Chair has proposed legislation to protect people who are affected by one of those penalties, the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), this this legislation *would predominately help men*. The senior women affected by the GPO, spouses and widows, are being completely ignored. Previous stimulus packages have failed to eliminate the GPO, while Congress provided \$89 billion to protect retirement plans that that are male-dominated. Congress must stop ignoring the economic needs of women; for example, public servants such as teachers who should be entitled to in full to the benefits of both Social Security and state teachers' pension plans.

The GPO denies widows and widowers their Social Security survivor benefits, with widows being the majority of survivors, and *thus is the most punitive penalty predominantly affecting women*. We support HR 82 because it eliminates the GPO which unfairly reduces Social Security survivors' benefits for those who also receive other government pensions of their own.

The Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee regards HR 82 as an important step forward. **Therefore, SBWPC wishes to sign on as a supporter of HR 82.**

Thank you for reviewing our organization's position on this issue. Should you wish to communicate further with us, please email us at [info@sbwpc.org](mailto:info@sbwpc.org) or visit our website: [www.sbwpc.org](http://www.sbwpc.org)

Sincerely,



Luz Reyes-Martín  
President SBWPC

CC: Rep. Salud Carbajal, cosponsor of HR 82, email: [Johanna.Montiel@mail.house.gov](mailto:Johanna.Montiel@mail.house.gov)