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

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January 25, 2023

The Honorable Garrett Graves  
2402 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
Legislative Director: [logan.delabarrehays@mail.house.gov](mailto:logan.delabarrehays@mail.house.gov)

**RE: HR 82 (Graves) Social Security Fairness Act - SUPPORT**

Dear Congressman Graves,

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. As one of the largest women's political committees in Santa Barbara County with hundreds of 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. These are the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the GPO. In the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress, the Social Security Fairness Act received a supermajority of co-sponsors, and the bill already has numerous co-sponsors in the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress. It is time for Congress to stop ignoring the economic needs of seniors, the majority of whom are women.

The GPO denies widows and widowers their regular Social Security benefits and Social Security survivor benefits. With women being the majority of survivors, *this is the most punitive penalty predominantly affecting women.*

We support HR 82 because it eliminates the GPO, which unfairly denies survivor's benefits for those who receive other government pensions of their own.

The Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee regards HR 82 as an important step forward in deserved economic benefits for seniors, most of whom are women. **Therefore, SBWPC wishes to sign on, as we have done in the past, as a supporter of HR 82, Social Security Fairness Act of 2023.**

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,

*Paula Lopez Ochoa*

Paula Lopez-Ochoa  
President SBWPC

CC: Rep. Salud Carbajal, Legislative Director [Johanna.Montiel@mail.house.gov](mailto:Johanna.Montiel@mail.house.gov);