September 19, 2022

Dear Chairman Neal, Ranking Member Brady and members of the House Committee on Ways and Means,

On behalf of the 650,000 postal employees and retirees represented by the American Postal Workers Union, the National Association of Letter Carriers, the National Postal Mail Handlers Union, and the National Rural Letter Carriers Association, we write urging you to pass the Social Security Fairness Act of 2021 (H.R. 82) without amendment.

H.R. 82 would restore retirement benefits for millions of public servants, including postal workers that we represent, by repealing the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO). With 299 co-sponsors, H.R. 82 has a strong bipartisan consensus, and after 30 years of inaction in Congress, it is time to repeal these unfair penalties that reduce retirees' incomes by thousands of dollars every year, taking away the benefits that they earned in private sector employment.

The WEP affects nearly two million retired public employees who also worked in Social Security-covered private sector jobs by reducing their benefits by as much as $512 per month. The GPO eliminates most, or sometimes all, spousal and survivor benefits for retirees who receive a government annuity for non-Social Security work.

These provisions unfairly penalize postal employees, and all public workers, who choose a career in public service. Our members serve every household, business and community in the nation by providing essential universal service. It is time to ensure that these dedicated hardworking employees receive the retirement benefits that they have earned.

We urge you to support the nation's postal workers, and all public employees, by passing H.R. 82 without amendment.

Sincerely,

Fredric V. Rolando
President
National Association of Letter Carriers

Mark Dimondstein
President
American Postal Workers Union

Paul V. Hogrogian
President
National Postal Mail Handlers Union

Ronnie W. Stutts
President
National Rural Letter Carriers Association