NEWS FLASH UPDATE: In mid-November, the House did overwhelmingly pass the Social Security Fairness Act (HR 82). On December 21, 2024, the Senate also passed the bill. President Biden signed the act into law on January 5, 2025. The Windfall Elimination Program and Government Pension Offset were repealed. It eliminates the reduction of Social Security benefits if you are also entitled to a pension from work not covered by Social Security.

I could give many what ifs on how this will be implemented by the Social Security Administration. But that is not my purpose today. When information comes out from Social Security, we will issue another flash update, so you have all the correct information.

In the meantime, there is nothing to do but verify your address and direct deposit with Social Security if it has recently changed. You can use your personal social security account online to do so. That can be done at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount) . Just sign in or create an account if you do not have one. Social Security indicates that they will provide updates on the implementation of the bill. They also indicate that a timeline will be posted online soon.

If you have not applied for social security benefits and you think you are eligible for regular monthly payments, spousal or survivor benefits, you can also do so online at ssa.gov/apply. Another option is to schedule an appointment at your local Social Security office.

If you want to monitor updates with regard to the repeal of WEM and GPO, a useful website is available: <https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirements/social-security-fairness-act.html>

I would like to take a moment to all those who contacted their House members and Senators to vote in favor of this bill. Without your support it would not have been possible.

Please practice patience. We were all government employees and know the pace of implementation of any changes. There are 2.8 million retirees that this affects. So a magic wand just doesn’t work.

Look forward to reporting again,

Mary Behm Vice Pres RASCOE and Leg Chair