

HOWARD L. BERMAN
28TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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THE MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0528
(202) 225-4695

DISTRICT OFFICE:
14546 Hamlin Street, Suite 202
Van Nuys, CA 91411-4128
(818) 994-7200

www.house.gov/berman

October 4, 2007

Dear Friends:

I am very pleased to announce that the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 82) will be the subject of a Congressional hearing in the early part of 2008. The Ways and Means Committee has committed to making this hearing an early priority when Congress reconvenes next year. I've been working closely with Chairman Charles Rangel, as well as with Social Security Subcommittee Chairman Michael McNulty to schedule a hearing at the earliest opportunity. Chairman Rangel has been an invaluable ally. His committee has jurisdiction and without his support, this bill cannot advance.

The hearing will be an opportunity for witnesses to speak to Members of Congress about GPO/WEP in a public forum and on the record. Witnesses will present testimony on behalf of over 1 million people nationwide who are unfairly penalized by these Social Security offsets.

This bill would never have made it this far without the hard work and dedication of a number of individuals and groups working behind the scenes to gather support and recruit Congressional cosponsors. Countless concerned citizens from across the country have called, emailed, and visited their Members of Congress to advocate for GPO/WEP repeal. Your efforts have paid off, as our bill now has 328 cosponsors – more than in any previous Congress – and that number continues to grow.

I particularly commend my colleague, Congressman Howard “Buck” McKeon, who has joined me in championing GPO/WEP repeal for many years – as well as UTLA's Bill Lambert, who originally brought this matter to my attention. Bill has worked every day for over seven years to pass this bill. I also commend A.J. Duffy, President of UTLA, for his support, and Randy Moody of NEA for his commitment to bringing this matter to a successful conclusion. I share their determination and feel certain that with their help the GPO and WEP will be repealed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Howard L. Berman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'H'.

HOWARD L. BERMAN
Member of Congress