



# **Fraternal Order of Police** **FLORIDA STATE LODGE**



February 18, 2008

The Honorable Michael R. McNulty  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Social Security  
Committee on Ways and Means  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1129 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative McNulty,

As the President of the Florida Fraternal Order of Police, I am writing on behalf of our 22,000 active and retired law enforcement officer members to seek the support of your subcommittee and yourself to move H.R. 82, the "Social Security Fairness Act" out of committee. As a recently retired (30 years) law enforcement officer from the City of Tampa Police Department, I am also writing as an affected party to the unfairness of the WEP and GPO which will impact me personally.

Serving as a public employee, protecting the citizens of my community was an honor. The pension I receive was hard earned over those 30 stress filled years. However, I also worked and earned more than the required 40 quarters to qualify for Social Security benefits. Those hard earned benefits will be reduced by up to 66% percent due to the inequities of the WEP and GPO. There is no "windfall" but rather a loss of earned retirement benefits to which many like myself are entitled. My situation is repeated over and over again by hard working public employees serving and protecting their cities and counties.

This legislation is a top priority for the members of the Fraternal Order of Police. It has been at the top of our list for several years and now our efforts in seeking the repeal of these unfair provisions is once again before your subcommittee. You have been a strong supporter and cosponsor to this legislation in the past. The Grand Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police and National President Chuck Canterbury have been actively and aggressively pursuing this important piece of legislation on behalf of law enforcement officers across the country.

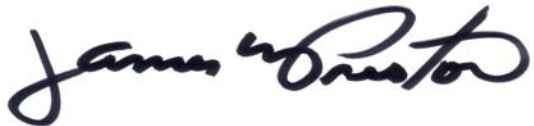
The importance and overwhelming support of H.R. 82 by members of the U.S. House of Representatives is reflected through the 327 cosponsors. More than 70% of the House believes in this bill enough to sign on with a majority of both caucuses supporting the legislation. In the Senate, the companion bill S. 206 has 34 cosponsors. Given the broad bipartisan support this bill has garnered, Congress should be permitted to hold a vote.

Representative McNulty, in the past you have been a cosponsor of this bill yourself. You signed two discharge petitions on the bill in previous sessions of Congress. Yet now as the Subcommittee Chairman you have not cosponsored H.R. 82 in this current session of Congress. It appears that in your role as Chairman of the subcommittee you have blocked the bill from a vote, a vote that the majority of your members and the members of the full committee have cosponsored.

Keeping H.R. 82 stalled, blocked in committee is grossly unfair to our FOP members and a position that I frankly do not understand. You have been a strong supporter of law enforcement. I urge you to continue that strong support for the men and women wearing a badge and serving on the front lines in our cities and counties by permitting action on H.R. 82.

Thank you for your service to our great nation. If I may be of any assistance, please allow me the opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James W. Preston". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James W. Preston, President  
Florida State Lodge  
Fraternal Order of Police