

# House Concurrent Resolution No. 34

## 92<sup>ND</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY

3601L.011

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

1           **Whereas**, the federal Windfall Elimination Provision can reduce the amount of a  
2 person's Social Security retirement or disability benefits if the person receives a pension from  
3 work not covered by Social Security but worked at other jobs where Social Security taxes were  
4 paid long enough to qualify for retirement or disability benefits; and  
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6           **Whereas**, the federal Windfall Elimination Provision was designed to prevent a  
7 windfall to persons who would unfairly benefit from provisions aimed at low-income workers.  
8 Social Security benefits replace a percentage of a worker's pre-retirement earnings and the  
9 benefit computation formula includes factors that make sure lower-paid workers get a higher  
10 return than highly paid workers; and  
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12           **Whereas**, prior to 1983 and the enactment of the federal Windfall Elimination  
13 Provision, people who worked in jobs not covered by Social Security received benefits that were  
14 computed as if they were long-term, low-wage workers, and they received the advantage of  
15 higher percentage benefits in addition to their other pension; and  
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17           **Whereas**, while the federal Windfall Elimination Provision does not apply to  
18 Social Security retirement or disability benefits paid to wives, husbands, widows, and widowers  
19 as dependent benefits, hundreds of thousand of Americans have been shocked to discover that  
20 their Social Security benefits that they counted on for retirement have been reduced; and  
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22           **Whereas**, attempts to repeal the federal Windfall Elimination Provision have been  
23 made for more than a decade, but none of the bills introduced in the United States Congress have

24 ever made it out of committee; and  
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26 **Whereas**, the federal Windfall Elimination Provision results in a variety of public  
27 workers, including teachers, firefighters, and police officers who pay into a state retirement plan  
28 instead of Social Security, receiving less than half of the monthly Social Security benefits for  
29 which such workers would otherwise be entitled to and for which they have paid into the Social  
30 Security system; and  
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32 **Whereas**, to date, the only reason given by the federal government for not  
33 repealing the federal Windfall Elimination Provision is that the repeal of the provision, while  
34 popular, would ultimately be irresponsible because it would cost the federal government millions  
35 of dollars to allow these workers to receive both their state pensions and their full Social  
36 Security benefits; and  
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38 **Whereas**, many low-paid public workers took on second jobs to supplement their  
39 salaries and now face the grim reality that the retirement benefits they believed they had earned  
40 and would be receiving have been taken away from them:  
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42 **Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the members of the House of  
43 Representatives of the Ninety-second General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate  
44 concurring therein, hereby urge the United States Congress to repeal the federal Windfall  
45 Elimination Provision which reduces the Social Security benefits for which many low-paid  
46 public workers in this county have paid into the Social Security system and would otherwise be  
47 entitled to receive; and  
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49 **Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of  
50 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for each  
51 member of the Missouri Congressional Delegation.