

House Concurrent Resolution No. 16

94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

4432L.011

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

2 **Whereas**, the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination
3 Provision (WEP) of the federal Social Security Act penalize people who have dedicated their
4 lives to public and military service by taking away benefits they have earned; and

5 **Whereas**, nine out of ten public employees affected by the GPO lose their entire
6 spousal benefit, even though their spouse paid Social Security taxes for many years; and

7
8 **Whereas**, the WEP causes hard-working people to lose up to sixty percent of the
9 benefits they earned themselves; and
10

11 **Whereas**, many workers rely on misleading Social Security Administration
12 statements that fail to take into account the GPO and WEP when projecting benefits; and
13

14 **Whereas**, the impact of the GPO and WEP is not just felt in those states in which
15 public employees, including retired veterans, are not covered by Social Security, because people
16 move from state to state and affected individuals are everywhere; and
17

18 **Whereas**, the GPO and WEP apply to Missouri retired veterans; and
19

20 **Whereas**, the number of people affected across the country is growing every day
21 as more and more people reach retirement age; and
22

23 **Whereas**, some 300,000 individuals lose an average of \$3,600 a year due to the
24 GPO which can make the difference between self-sufficiency and poverty; and
25

26 **Whereas**, these people have less money to spend in their local economy and
27 sometimes have to turn to expensive government programs like food stamps to make ends meet;
28 and
29

30 **Whereas**, the nation should respect, not penalize, public and military service; and
31

32 **Whereas**, the GPO and WEP are established in federal law and repeal of the GPO
33 and WEP can only be enacted by the United States Congress:
34

35 **Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the members of the House of
36 Representatives of the Ninety-fourth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate
37 concurring therein, hereby urge the Congress of the United States to immediately repeal the
38 Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision of the Social Security Act; and
39

40 **Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
41 Representatives be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the
42 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives
43 and the members of the Missouri Congressional delegation.

✓