

STATE OF ALASKA THE LEGISLATURE

2004

Source

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**Legislative
Resolve No.**

42



Relating to supporting the repeal of the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provisions from the Social Security Act.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS the retirement systems established by the state for public employees are independent of the federal social security system; and

WHEREAS Alaska's teachers and most public employees do not participate in the federal social security system while performing public service; and

WHEREAS the Social Security Act includes two offsets, the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision, that reduce the social security benefits payable to persons earned in the private sector or from other public retirement systems under certain conditions; and

WHEREAS educators and many other public employees in Alaska who earn a pension from working for a government agency incur substantial reductions in their earned social security benefits as surviving spouses through their spouses' social security eligibility under the Government Pension Offset or from employment for which they paid into social security from the Windfall Elimination Provision; and

WHEREAS the Social Security Act offsets discourage individuals with private sector or military service from seeking teaching and other public employment positions in Alaska; and

WHEREAS the recruitment of teachers from other states who have earned social security benefits from other jobs is also undermined by these federal offsets; and

WHEREAS teachers have left Alaska upon learning about these offsets in order to avoid losing social security benefits; and

WHEREAS the Alaska economy is also harmed by these social security offsets due to millions of dollars in lost benefits; and

WHEREAS legislation to remedy the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision has been introduced in the 108th United States Congress by a bipartisan group of legislators and cosponsored by a large number of other legislators;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature requests the Alaska Congressional delegation to sign on as cosponsors to current federal legislation and support the repeal of the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States; the Honorable Tommy Thompson, United States Secretary of Health and Human Services; the Honorable Rod Paige, United States Secretary of Education; the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.