

1 and

2 WHEREAS, according to recent Social Security Administration figures, more than
3 half a million individuals nationally are affected by the GPO; and

4 WHEREAS, the WEP applies to those persons who have earned federal, state, or
5 local government retirement or pension benefits in public employment not covered by Social
6 Security, in addition to working in employment covered by Social Security and paying into
7 the Social Security system; and

8 WHEREAS, the WEP reduces the earned Social Security benefit using an averaged
9 indexed monthly earnings formula and may reduce Social Security benefits for affected
10 persons by as much as one-half of the retirement benefit earned as a public servant in
11 employment not covered by Social Security; and

12 WHEREAS, the WEP causes hardworking individuals to lose a significant portion
13 of the Social Security benefits that they earn themselves; and

14 WHEREAS, according to recent Social Security Administration figures, more than
15 one and a half million individuals nationally are affected by the WEP; and

16 WHEREAS, in certain circumstances both the WEP and the GPO can be applied to
17 a qualifying survivor's benefit, each independently reducing the available benefit and in
18 combination eliminating a large portion of the total Social Security benefit available to the
19 survivor; and

20 WHEREAS, because of the calculation characteristics of the WEP and the GPO, they
21 have a disproportionately negative effect on employees working in lower-wage government
22 jobs, like teachers, school workers, and state employees; and

23 WHEREAS, the number of people affected by the WEP and the GPO is growing as
24 nearly 10,000 baby boomers reach retirement age each day; and

25 WHEREAS, individuals drastically affected by the WEP and the GPO may have no
26 choice but to return to work after retirement in order to make ends meet, but the earnings
27 accumulated during a return to work in the public sector may further reduce the Social
28 Security benefits the individual is entitled to; and

29 WHEREAS, the WEP and the GPO are established in federal law, and repeal or
30 reduction of the WEP and the GPO can only be enacted by Congress.

