

1 Social Security benefit even though the retiree's spouse paid Social Security taxes
2 throughout the marriage; and

3 WHEREAS, according to the Congressional Research Service, nearly seven hundred
4 thousand people were affected by the GPO in December 2018, including more than thirty-
5 seven thousand Louisianians; and

6 WHEREAS, the WEP applies to those persons who have earned federal, state, or
7 local government retirement or pension benefits in public employment not covered by Social
8 Security, in addition to paying social security taxes while working in employment covered
9 by Social Security; and

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

14 WHEREAS, the WEP causes hardworking individuals to lose a significant portion
15 of the Social Security benefits that they earned themselves; and

16 WHEREAS, according to the Congressional Research Service, nearly two million
17 people, or about three percent of all Social Security beneficiaries were affected by the WEP
18 in December 2019; and

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

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

26 WHEREAS, the number of people affected by the WEP and the GPO is growing as
27 nearly ten thousand baby boomers attain retirement age each day; and

28 WHEREAS, individuals drastically affected by the WEP and the GPO may have no
29 choice but to return to work after retirement in order to make ends meet, but the earnings
30 accumulated during reemployment in the public sector may further reduce the Social

