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Dr. Rebecca Ann Zur Phd
2928 Silver Lake Boulevard
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Dear Rebecca:

Thank you for contacting me regarding the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). I am excited to have the opportunity to represent you and the 14th Congressional District.

The Windfall Elimination Provision is a legislative provision in United States law which affects benefits paid by the Social Security Administration under Title II of the Social Security Act. The WEP affects how the amount of retirement or disability benefits are calculated if a person received a pension from work where Social Security taxes were not taken out of the pay. The WEP primarily affects a person who earns a pension in any job where Social Security taxes were not paid and also worked in other jobs long enough to qualify for a Social Security retirement or disability benefit.

I believe this law to be inherently unfair. If a person worked as a teacher for 20 years, but also worked at a job that paid into Social Security any Social Security benefit he or she may be entitled to upon retirement may be reduced because of the pension received from the State Teachers Retirement System. Now, if that same person worked at a private sector company for all those years, not only would he or she receive a full pension from the company, but would also receive a full Social Security retirement benefit.

As you may know, H.R. 711 was introduced by Representative Kevin Brady on February 4, 2015, and I am a co-sponsor of the bill. This legislation seeks to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the windfall elimination provision and protect the retirement of public servants. This bill has been referred to the House Ways and Means Committee.

Another bill, H.R. 973, the Social Security Fairness Act of 2015, was introduced on February, 13, 2015, by Representative Rodney Davis. I also am a co-sponsor of this legislation. The measure would repeal the windfall elimination requirement with respect to computation of an individual's primary insurance amount under which OASDI retirement or disability benefits are reduced if the individual receives a federal, state, or local government pension, did not pay Social Security taxes during the years of government service, and so did not earn entitlement to Social Security benefits for those years. This bill also has been referred to the House Ways and Means Committee.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to contact me. Please do not hesitate to contact me again if you have any further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



David P. Joyce
Member of Congress