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SENATE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The Social Security Fairness Act of 2003 was  
3 introduced into the U.S. House of Representatives on February  
4 5, 2003 as H.R. 594 and into the U.S. Senate on February 11,  
5 2003 as S. 439; and

6           WHEREAS, The Social Security Fairness Act of 2003 amends  
7 title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government  
8 Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision; and

9           WHEREAS, The Government Pension Offset was enacted in 1977  
10 and the Windfall Elimination Provision was enacted in 1983; and

11           WHEREAS, The majority of public employees affected by the  
12 Government Pension Offset lost their entire spousal benefit  
13 despite the fact that their spouses paid Social Security  
14 contributions for many years; and

15           WHEREAS, An affected public employee loses an average of  
16 \$3,000 per year because of the Government Pension Offset; and

17           WHEREAS, The Windfall Elimination Provision causes public  
18 employees to lose up to 60% of the benefits that they earned;  
19 and

20           WHEREAS, According to the Social Security Administration's  
21 actuaries, the long-term cost of eliminating both of these  
22 provisions is negligible while the loss of income to affected  
23 employees caused by these provisions forces some civil servants  
24 into poverty; and

25           WHEREAS, These provisions discriminate against teachers,  
26 police, firefighters, social workers, and other civil  
27 servants; and

1           WHEREAS, The State and national shortage of teachers,  
2 police officers, and firefighters is exacerbated by these  
3 provisions because they discourage people from entering and  
4 staying in these professions; therefore, be it

5           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL  
6 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the U.S.  
7 Congress to pass the Social Security Fairness Act of 2003 or  
8 other legislation that eliminates both the Government Pension  
9 Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision; and be it  
10 further

11           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
12 delivered to the President pro tempore of the U.S. Senate, the  
13 Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, and each member  
14 of the Illinois Congressional delegation.