

# The More You Work, the More You Lose!

Socialsecurityfairness.com

Do you work for a public agency that does not participate in the Social Security system by deducting F.I.C.A. taxes from your paycheck but, rather, contributes to a pension system? If so, you know you aren't earning SS credits on this job, but also---**When you retire, you will lose part or all of the Social Security retirement benefits you have earned in other work or as a dependent spouse!**

## **Penalty: The Government Pension Offset--GPO**

Many people do not realize that if you have been married for ten years or more to someone who has earned Social Security benefits, when you retire, normally, you will receive an additional amount equal to one-half the amount your spouse has earned. But if you have one of these public pensions where you don't pay into Social Security, you can lose \$12,000 or more a year of your earned spousal benefit. If your spouse dies, you can lose double that, ALL the death benefits other families rely on. (You get your own SS earnings if they are more than half your spouse's, but those earnings get reduced by the WEP)

## **Penalty: The Windfall Elimination Provision--WEP**

Most people rely on the statements that the Social Security Administration publishes every year estimating your future retirement benefits. DO NOT DO THAT. If you get a public pension, no matter how small, your Social Security benefit earned from other work can be reduced by an amount up to half the amount of your public pension! This has a huge effect on multi-career people! Most people lose \$400 or more a month, but the amount can be much more.

## **What can you do about it?**

- Pressure your union or employee group to make it a major priority to repeal the GPO/WEP.
- Write your representatives in Congress. This is so unfair!
- Get more info and join the group at [ssfairness.com](http://ssfairness.com).

Defend yourself! Find out how much you will lose. Get appropriate life insurance on your spouse. Plan your retirement knowing that you will not be getting as much as the statements say you will! Make sure that your lawyer or broker understands the effects of the offsets when making financial decisions about your future!

**Become informed! Be vocal! Talk to public servants affected!**