

March, 2001

The Honorable  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

As a federal employee who lives and votes in your district, I am writing to ask you to cosponsor H.R. 664, legislation that will fix a serious inequity in spousal Social Security benefits for those who work for the federal government.

Under current law, Social Security benefits normally due to someone as a spouse or widow of a Social Security recipient, are slashed for those of us who receive government pensions. The Government Pension Offset (GPO) reduces the Social Security spouse's or widow's benefit by two-thirds of the amount of the government pensions. For example, if I am eligible for a monthly pension of \$600 as a result of my federal government service, two-thirds of that amount, or \$400, must be used to offset the Social Security spouse's or widow's benefit for which I might also be eligible. If I am eligible for a monthly spousal Social Security benefit of \$500 based on my spouse's work record, the GPO results in my receiving only \$100 per month.

The GPO is particularly devastating to female federal employees who are often eligible for small federal pensions, as a result of either interruptions in their careers while raising their families or working in lower graded positions for most of their careers. The GPO does not apply to individuals receiving private or corporate pensions.

H.R. 664 would not eliminate the GPO entirely. It would apply the offset only to combined pension and Social Security spousal benefits that exceed \$1200 per month. The GPO unfairly penalizes individuals who spend their careers in public service and this legislation represents a modest improvement. Please let me know if you will cosponsor this important legislation. I can be reached at the address below. Thank you.

Sincerely,

**Bill Summary & Status for the 107th Congress****NEW SEARCH | HOME | HELP****H.R.664**Sponsor: Rep Jefferson, William J. (introduced 2/14/2001)

Latest Major Action: 2/28/2001 Referred to House subcommittee

Title: A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide that the reductions in Social Security benefits which are required in the case of spouses and surviving spouses who are also receiving certain Government pensions shall be equal to the amount by which the total amount of the combined monthly benefit (before reduction) and monthly pension exceeds \$1,200.

Jump to: Titles, Status, Committees, Related Bill Details, Amendments, Cosponsors, Summary

**TITLE(S):** (*italics indicate a title for a portion of a bill*)

## • OFFICIAL TITLE AS INTRODUCED:

A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide that the reductions in Social Security benefits which are required in the case of spouses and surviving spouses who are also receiving certain Government pensions shall be equal to the amount by which the total amount of the combined monthly benefit (before reduction) and monthly pension exceeds \$1,200.

**STATUS:** (*color indicates Senate actions*)**2/14/2001:**

Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

**2/28/2001:**

Referred to the Subcommittee on Social Security.

**COMMITTEE(S):**

<b>Committee/Subcommittee:</b>	<b>Activity:</b>
<u>House Ways and Means</u>	Referral
<u>Subcommittee on Social Security</u>	Referral

**RELATED BILL DETAILS:**

\*\*\*NONE\*\*\*

**AMENDMENT(S):**

\*\*\*NONE\*\*\*

**COSPONSORS(149), ALPHABETICAL** [followed by Cosponsors withdrawn]: (Sort: by date)Rep Abercrombie, Neil - 2/14/2001Rep Allen, Thomas H. - 2/14/2001Rep Andrews, Robert E. - 2/14/2001Rep Baird, Brian - 2/14/2001Rep Baker, Richard H. - 2/27/2001Rep Baldacci, John Elias - 2/14/2001

Rep Baldwin, Tammy - 2/14/2001  
Rep Bartlett, Roscoe G. - 2/14/2001  
Rep Bentsen, Ken - 2/14/2001  
Rep Berman, Howard L. - 2/14/2001  
Rep Bishop, Sanford D. Jr. - 2/14/2001  
Rep Blumenauer, Earl - 2/27/2001  
Rep Bonior, David E. - 2/14/2001  
Rep Borski, Robert A. - 2/14/2001  
Rep Brown, Corrine - 2/14/2001  
Rep Burr, Richard - 2/14/2001  
Rep Capps, Lois - 3/6/2001  
Rep Costello, Jerry F. - 2/27/2001  
Rep Cramer, Robert E. (Bud) Jr. - 2/14/2001  
Rep Cummings, Elijah E. - 2/14/2001  
Rep Davis, Tom - 2/27/2001  
Rep DeFazio, Peter A. - 2/14/2001  
Rep DeLauro, Rosa L. - 2/14/2001  
Rep Edwards, Chet - 2/27/2001  
Rep Engel, Eliot L. - 2/14/2001  
Rep Ferguson, Mike - 3/8/2001  
Rep Frank, Barney - 2/14/2001  
Rep Gekas, George W. - 2/14/2001  
Rep Gillmor, Paul E. - 2/14/2001  
Rep Hall, Tony P. - 3/8/2001  
Rep Hilliard, Earl F. - 2/14/2001  
Rep Hoeffel, Joseph M. - 3/6/2001  
Rep Holt, Rush D. - 2/27/2001  
Rep Hoyer, Steny H. - 2/27/2001  
Rep John, Christopher - 2/27/2001  
Rep Johnson, Timothy V. - 2/14/2001  
Rep Jones, Walter B., Jr. - 2/14/2001  
Rep Kaptur, Marcy - 2/14/2001  
Rep Kind, Ron - 2/14/2001  
Rep Kleczka, Gerald D. - 3/8/2001  
Rep LaHood, Ray - 2/14/2001  
Rep LaTourette, Steve C. - 2/14/2001  
Rep Lipinski, William O. - 3/8/2001  
Rep Lowey, Nita M. - 2/14/2001  
Rep Luther, Bill - 2/14/2001  
Rep Maloney, James H. - 2/14/2001  
Rep McCarthy, Carolyn - 2/14/2001  
Rep Barcia, James A. - 2/14/2001  
Rep Becerra, Xavier - 2/14/2001  
Rep Berkley, Shelley - 2/14/2001  
Rep Bilirakis, Michael - 2/27/2001  
Rep Blagojevich, Rod R. - 2/14/2001  
Rep Bonilla, Henry - 2/27/2001  
Rep Bono, Mary - 2/14/2001  
Rep Boucher, Rick - 2/14/2001  
Rep Brown, Sherrod - 2/14/2001  
Rep Cantor, Eric - 2/14/2001  
Rep Christensen, Donna M. - 2/14/2001  
Rep Coyne, William J. - 2/14/2001  
Rep Crowley, Joseph - 2/14/2001  
Rep Davis, Jo Ann - 3/6/2001  
Rep Deal, Nathan - 2/14/2001  
Rep Delahunt, William D. - 2/14/2001  
Rep Doyle, Michael F. - 2/14/2001  
Rep Emerson, Jo Ann - 2/14/2001  
Rep Evans, Lane - 3/6/2001  
Rep Foley, Mark - 2/14/2001  
Rep Frost, Martin - 2/14/2001  
Rep Gilchrest, Wayne T. - 2/14/2001  
Rep Gonzalez, Charles A. - 2/14/2001  
Rep Hart, Melissa A. - 2/14/2001  
Rep Hinchey, Maurice D. - 2/27/2001  
Rep Holden, Tim - 2/14/2001  
Rep Hooley, Darlene - 2/14/2001  
Rep Jenkins, William L. - 3/6/2001  
Rep Johnson, Eddie Bernice - 2/14/2001  
Rep Jones, Stephanie Tubbs - 2/27/2001  
Rep Kanjorski, Paul E. - 2/14/2001  
Rep Kelly, Sue W. - 2/14/2001  
Rep King, Peter T. - 2/14/2001  
Rep Kucinich, Dennis J. - 2/14/2001  
Rep Lantos, Tom - 2/14/2001  
Rep Lewis, Ron - 2/27/2001  
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[Rep Mink, Patsy T.](#) - 2/14/2001  
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[Rep Slaughter, Louise McIntosh](#) - 2/14/2001  
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[Rep Waxman, Henry A.](#) - 2/14/2001  
[Rep Whitfield, Ed](#) - 2/14/2001  
[Rep Wolf, Frank R.](#) - 2/14/2001

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**SUMMARY AS OF:**

2/14/2001--Introduced.

Amends title II (Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance) (OASDI) of the Social Security Act to modify the formula for determining the amount of reduced monthly OASDI benefits payable to a spouse, surviving spouse, or parent receiving monthly payments from a Federal or State pension plan. Declares that such benefit reductions shall be equal to the lesser of: (1) the amount by which the total amount of the combined monthly benefit (before reduction) and monthly pension exceeds \$1,200, adjusted for inflation; or (2) an amount equal to two-thirds of the amount of any such monthly pension plan payment.