



ATPE's Federal Priorities June 2019

- Amend federal laws and rules so as to eliminate provisions that reduce the retirement benefits of educators.

ATPE supports efforts like H.R. 6933, the Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act (ETPSA) sponsored in the 115th Congress by Rep. Kevin Brady (R-Texas) and Rep. Richard Neal (D-MA). The act would have repealed the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), which unfairly affects educators eligible for both Social Security and government pensions (such as through Texas's Teacher Retirement System). The ETPSA would have modified the formula used to calculate educators' and other public workers' Social Security benefits, replacing it with a new, fairer formula. ATPE supports the refiling and passage of ETPSA in the 116th Congress.

- Oppose mandatory participation in Social Security for Texas public school employees.
- Oppose any program, initiative, tuition tax credit, or voucher system that would direct public funds to private, home, or for-profit virtual schools.

ATPE opposes S.634/H.R. 1434 the Education Freedom Scholarships and Opportunity Act, which would allow corporations and individuals to deduct from their federal taxes 100 percent of their contributions to "scholarship funds" for private schools. Tax credit scholarship proposals aim to subsidize private, for-profit schools with taxpayer dollars redirected from free, constitutional public schools.

ATPE joined the Military Coalition, a coalition of than 5.5 million active and former members of the U.S. Military, in opposing H.R.1605/S.695, the Education Savings Accounts for Military Families Act of 2019. The \$2,500 voucher program created by this bill would drain limited dollars from both the public school system in Texas as well as the Federal Impact Aid Program, hurting the very military-connected students it purports to help.

- Oppose the elimination of federal Higher Education Act (HEA) Title II programs that pertain to educator recruitment, training, and retention.
- Monitor implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
- Support full funding of all federal education mandates, and minimize or eliminate competitive federal grant programs in favor of formula funding that directs dollars to all students in need.