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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **ATPE Supports H.R. 3934 and H.R. 4540**

*Texas's largest educator association, supports efforts to improve Social Security benefits for retired Texas educators*

**AUSTIN, Texas**—[The Association of Texas Professional Educators](http://atpe.org) (ATPE) announces its support of two federal bills recently filed by Rep. **Kevin Brady** (R–The Woodlands, Texas) and Rep. **Richard Neal** (D–Springfield, Mass.) that would improve Social Security retirement benefits for many educators.

The two bills, Brady’s H.R. 3934, also known as the “[Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act of 2019](#)” (ETPSA), and Neal’s H.R. 4540, the “[Public Servants Protection and Fairness Act](#)” (PSPFA), would repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP)—a provision ATPE believes unfairly penalizes Texas educators and other government workers by arbitrarily reducing their earned Social Security Benefits. Both bills would replace the WEP with a new proportional formula that would increase Social Security payments for most retirees who would otherwise be subject to WEP penalization.

“As a retired teacher, I appreciate the work being done in Washington to address the unfair and complicated WEP offset that affects so many of us retirees,” said **Jimmy Lee**, ATPE State Vice President, and a retired educator from Texas. “Our active educators also deserve a solution that helps them understand the benefits they are working hard to earn and to better plan for their retirements in the future.”

In addition to creating a better formula for future retirees, both the ETPSA and PSPFA would provide a monthly stipend to educators over the age of 60 who are eligible for Social Security and already retired. The retiree stipend would automatically increase over time at the same rate as Social Security under both bills. The 2019 version of the ETPSA improves upon a previous version of Brady’s bill by adding a “hold harmless” clause that ensures all current and future Texas educators between 21-59 years of age receive the highest Social Security benefit available to them under either

the existing WEP or the new law if passed. The PSPFA includes a similar provision that would function in perpetuity.

Neal is the current chairman of the U.S. House Ways and Means Committee, which has the jurisdiction to hear the two bills. Brady previously served in that role and is the current ranking member. Both congressmen have worked together for years as champions for WEP reform, collaborating often with ATPE and other stakeholders to craft legislation capable of earning enough bipartisan support to both pass and provide a real benefit to current and future retired educators.

As Texas's largest educator association, ATPE has long supported and will continue to support the full repeal of the WEP and the [Government Pension Offset \(GPO\)](#). ATPE also recognizes the importance of supporting bills that are: demonstrably better than current law, designed to put real money back into the pockets of current and future education retirees, and have a realistic chance of being passed. ATPE supports the ETPSA and PSPFA because the two bills meet these criteria.

“It’s long past time for us to repeal the WEP and ensure our retirees can make use of the full Social Security benefits they have earned,” said **Shannon Holmes**, ATPE Executive Director. “Both of these bills present a reasonable solution that would provide a better future for current and future retirees. We urge their passage in Congress.”

ATPE thanks Congressmen Brady and Neal for their continued work on this important issue. The association is committed to working with them to advance legislation that will ultimately end the arbitrary legacy of the WEP.

Learn more about [ATPE's Legislative Priorities and Program](#).

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### **About the Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE)**

ATPE has been a strong voice for Texas educators since 1980. It is the leading educators' association in Texas with approximately 100,000 members statewide. With its strong collaborative philosophy, ATPE speaks for classroom teachers, administrators, and future, retired and para-educators and works to create better opportunities for Texas's 5.4 million public school students. ATPE is the ally and the voice of Texas public education. Learn more about ATPE at [atpe.org](http://atpe.org).