

After a Decades-Long Fight, the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 82) Is Signed Into Law.

On January 5, 2025, PORAC President Brian Marvel and Steptoe advocates Darryl Nirenberg and Rowan Bost attended the bill signing ceremony at the White House for the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 82). This legislation will repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) to ensure that peace officers, teachers, firefighters, and other public servants receive the full Social Security benefits they deserve. After over 40 years of tireless advocacy, this is a historic win for millions of Americans who serve our communities.

This legislation has been at the top of PORAC's legislative priorities for the last seven years. In 2024, we reinvigorated our push by working with the House bill leads, then-Representatives Garret Graves and Abigail Spanberger, and advocating alongside a coalition of stakeholders to push for the passage of this legislation. Additionally, we engaged in advocacy alongside the newly-formed West Coast Coalition to share their unique perspectives with lawmakers on the importance of this bill. From leading letters to the California delegations encouraging cosponsorship to submitting congressional testimony and PORAC member experiences, our diligent and passionate effort ultimately resulted in all but three Members of the California Delegation supporting the bill and its final passage.

It has been an honor for your team at Steptoe to fight alongside you and we are overjoyed to see our effort come to fruition and lead to long-lasting change for PORAC and peace officers nationwide.

118th Congress PORAC Scorecard

| Number - Title | Subject | Sponsor | Current Status |
|---|--|--|---|
| S. 597/H.R. 82: Social Security Fairness Act | To amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions. | Sen. Brown, Sherrod [Sen.-D-OH] / Rep. Graves, Garret [R-LA-6] | Signed into law. |
| S. 546 / H.R. 3325: Recruit and Retain Act of 2023 | A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize law enforcement agencies to use COPS grants for recruitment activities, and for other purposes. | Sen. Fischer, Deb [R-NE] / Rep. Hunt, Wesley [R-TX-38] | Signed into law. |
| S. 1280/H.R. 1734: TRANQ Research Act | To require coordinated National Institute of Standards and Technology science and research activities regarding illicit drugs containing xylazine, novel synthetic opioids, and other substances of concern, and for other purposes. | Sen. Cruz, Ted [R-TX] / Rep. Collins, Mike [R-GA-10] | Signed into law |
| S. 1271 / H.R. 3333: FEND Off Fentanyl Act | A bill to impose sanctions with respect to trafficking of illicit fentanyl and its precursors by transnational criminal organizations, including cartels, and for other purposes. | Sen. Scott, Tim [R-SC] / Rep. McCaul, Michael T. [R-TX-10] | Signed into law as part of the FY24 national security supplemental package. |
| S. 645/H.R.472: Fighting Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Act of 2023 | To require the Attorney General to propose a program for making treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder and acute stress disorder available to public safety officers, and for other purposes. | Sen. Grassley, Chuck [R-IA] / Rep. Joyce, David P. [R-OH-14] | Signed into law as part of the bipartisan FY25 National Defense Authorization Act. |
| S. 994 / H.R. 5029: Strong Communities Act of 2023 | To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide that COPS grant funds may be used for local law enforcement recruits to attend schools or academies if the recruits agree to serve in precincts of law enforcement agencies in their communities. | Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI] / Rep. Moran, Nathaniel [R-TX-1] | Signed into law as part of the bipartisan FY25 National Defense Authorization Act. |
| S. 2644: American Law Enforcement SAVER Act | A bill to establish standards for trauma kits purchased using funds provided under the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program. | Sen. Cornyn, John [R-TX] | Signed into law as part of the bipartisan FY25 National Defense Authorization Act. |
| S. 1144/H.R. 3184: Invest to Protect Act | A bill to establish a grant program to provide assistance to local law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes. | Cortez Masto, Catherine [Sen.-D-NV] / Rep. Gottheimer, Josh [D-NJ-5] | Passed the Senate/Referred to House Judiciary |
| S. 4235: Reauthorizing Support and Treatment for Officers in Crisis Act of 2024 | To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to reauthorize grants to support for law enforcement officers and families, and for other purposes. | Sen. Hawley, Josh [R-MO] | Passed the Senate |
| H.Con.Res.40: Expressing support for local law enforcement officers and condemning efforts to defund or dismantle local law enforcement agencies. | In title. | Rep. Buck, Ken [R-CO-4] | Passed the House |
| S. 1141/H.R.467: HALT Fentanyl Act | To amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, and for other purposes. | Sen. Cassidy, Bill [R-LA] / Rep. Griffith, H. Morgan [R-VA-9] | Referred to Senate Judiciary / Passed the House |
| S. 993/H.R. 1839: Combating Illicit Xylazine Act | To prohibit certain uses of xylazine, and for other purposes. | Sen. Cortez Masto, Catherine [D-NV] / Rep. Panetta, Jimmy [D-CA-19] | Senate Banking hearing held on the bill. / Passed the House as part of the Support for Patients and Communities Reauthorization Act |

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| H.R. 4531: Support for Patients and Communities Reauthorization Act | This bill reauthorizes through FY2028 and modifies various grants, programs, and activities that address substance use and misuse. | Rep. Guthrie, Brett [R-KY-2] | Passed the House |
| H.R. 8205: Keeping Violent Offenders Off Our Streets Act | To amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit fraud in connection with posting bail | Rep. Fitzgerald, Scott [R-WI-5] | Passed the House |
| H.R. 6319: 911 SAVES Act of 2023 | This bill requires the Office of Management and Budget, by 30 days after the bill's enactment, to categorize public safety telecommunicators as a protective service occupation under the Standard Occupational Classification System. | Rep. Torres, Norma J. [D-CA-35] / Rep. Fitzpatrick, Brian K. [R-PA-1] | Passed House Education and Workforce |
| S. 930/H.R. 1719: Honoring Our Fallen Heroes Act | To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide public safety officer benefits for exposure-related cancers, and for other purposes. | Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN] / Rep. Pascrell, Bill, Jr. [D-NJ-9] | Passed Senate Judiciary / Referred to House Judiciary |
| S. 3335: Retired Federal Law Enforcement Officers Continuing Service Act | A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to establish a grant program to help law enforcement agencies with civilian law enforcement tasks, and for other purposes. | Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN] | Passed Senate Judiciary |
| S. 3522 / H.R. 7581: Improving Law Enforcement Officer Safety and Wellness Through Data Act | A bill to require the Attorney General to develop reports relating to violent attacks against law enforcement officers, and for other purposes. | Sen. Grassley, Chuck [R-IA] / Rep. Bishop, Dan [R-NC-8] | Referred to Senate Judiciary / Passed the House |
| S. 4255/H.R. 3269: Law Enforcement Innovate to De-Escalate Act | To modernize Federal firearms laws to account for advancements in technology and less-than-lethal weapons, and for other purposes. | Sen. Sinema, Kyrsten [I-AZ] / Rep. Stanton, Greg [D-AZ-4] | Referred to Senate Finance / Passed House Ways and Means |
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