

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 6, 2025

The Honorable Erhard R. Chorlé
Chairman
U.S. Railroad Retirement Board
844 North Rush Street, 9th Floor
Chicago, I.L. 60611

Dear Chairman Chorlé,

We write to you concerning the implementation of the *Social Security Fairness Act* (Public Law No: 118-273). This legislation passed Congress on an overwhelmingly bipartisan basis on December 21st, 2024 and was signed into law on January 5th, 2025.¹ The *Social Security Fairness Act* restores full railroad retirement annuities or earned Social Security benefits for railroad retirees, their spouses, and survivors who are receiving public pensions from work not covered by Social Security.

The repeal of the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO) means that individuals who were previously affected by these reductions will retroactively have their full tier-I railroad retirement benefit amounts restored for months after December 2023, the effective date of the repeal, and for future monthly benefit payments.

The Railroad Retirement Board's (RRB) website currently states, in part:

The calculation and issuance of any retroactive payments, in addition to the processing of new railroad retirement annuity applications, will be delayed by the RRB's need to significantly reprogram its computer systems to implement the SSFA. We anticipate that most individuals will begin receiving their new monthly annuity amount in July 2025 (for their June 2025 annuity). If an individual is due retroactive benefits as a result of the Act, they will receive a one-time retroactive payment, deposited into the bank account RRB has on file, by the end of July 2025.²

We call for the immediate implementation of this legislation to provide prompt relief to railroad retirees, their spouses, and survivors impacted by WEP and GPO. In the interim, we request monthly updates and briefings regarding the status of the Railroad Retirement Board's progress towards implementing the *Social Security Fairness Act*.

¹ Social Security Fairness Act of 2023, Pub. L. No. 118-273, 138 Stat. 3232 (2025), <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/82>.

² U.S. Railroad Retirement Board, "Frequently Asked Questions about the Social Security Fairness Act" (updated June 3, 2025), <https://rrb.gov/SSFAFAQ>.

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Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Bill Cassidy, M.D.
Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator

Susan M Collins
Susan M. Collins
United States Senator