

1 throughout the marriage; and

2 WHEREAS, according to the Congressional Research Service, nearly seven hundred
3 thousand people were affected by the GPO in December 2017, including more than twenty-
4 six thousand Louisianians; and

5 WHEREAS, the WEP applies to those persons who have earned federal, state, or
6 local government retirement or pension benefits in public employment not covered by Social
7 Security, in addition to paying social security taxes while working in employment covered
8 by Social Security; and

9 WHEREAS, the WEP reduces the earned Social Security benefit using an averaged
10 indexed monthly earnings formula and may reduce Social Security benefits for affected
11 persons by as much as one-half of the retirement benefit earned as a public servant in
12 employment not covered by Social Security; and

13 WHEREAS, the WEP causes hardworking individuals to lose a significant portion
14 of the Social Security benefits that they earned themselves; and

15 WHEREAS, according to the Congressional Research Service, more than eight
16 hundred thousand people, or about three percent of all Social Security beneficiaries were
17 affected by the WEP in December 2017; and

18 WHEREAS, in certain circumstances both the WEP and the GPO can be applied to
19 a qualifying survivor's benefit, each independently reducing the available benefit and, in
20 combination, eliminating a large portion of the total Social Security benefit available to the
21 survivor; and

22 WHEREAS, because of the calculation characteristics of the WEP and the GPO, they
23 have a disproportionately negative effect on employees working in lower-wage government
24 jobs, like teachers, school workers, and state employees; and

25 WHEREAS, the number of people affected by the WEP and the GPO is growing as
26 nearly ten thousand baby boomers attain retirement age each day; and

27 WHEREAS, individuals drastically affected by the WEP and the GPO may have no
28 choice but to return to work after retirement in order to make ends meet, but the earnings
29 accumulated during reemployment in the public sector may further reduce the Social
30 Security benefits the individual is entitled to; and

