

Coffman Plan to End Congressional Pensions Wins Key Endorsements *Taxpayer Advocacy Groups Throw Support Behind Proposal*

(WASHINGTON) – Today Congressman Mike Coffman, R-CO, announced that his proposal to end the Congressional pension system has won the backing of three prominent taxpayer advocacy groups. Americans for Tax Reform, Citizens Against Government Waste, and the National Taxpayers Union have announced their support of Coffman’s [House Resolution 2913](#), which would put an end to the pension plan available to members of Congress.

“It’s great to have the support of these groups and I welcome their help in passing my legislation to eliminate Congressional pensions,” Coffman said. “Congress needs to set an example for the country and ending the Congressional pension plan will demonstrate our commitment to responsibly managing taxpayer dollars and help ensure Members of Congress view themselves as citizen legislators.”

Coffman’s bill would eliminate the defined-benefit Congressional pension plan that gives Members, who have served at least five years, an annual payment equal to 1.7 percent of their salary (now \$174,000) for the first 20 years of service and an additional 1 percent for each year served after the 20 year mark. Members of Congress are required to pay 1.3 percent of their annual salary into the pension plan.

Coffman’s legislation will honor any retirement benefits accrued prior to the enactment of this bill. It will also keep Social Security and the 401 (k)-style Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) in place.

“Most Americans don’t have access to both the top-notch Thrift Savings Plan and a defined benefit pension plan. Members of Congress should not have a retirement that much better than most of their constituents,” said Grover Norquist, head of Americans for Tax Reform, in a letter of support. “They will still have a better plan because of TSP, but H.R. 2913 closes the gap somewhat, and in a way that holds the defined contribution portion harmless.”

Thomas A. Schatz, president of Citizens Against Government Waste sent a letter to Coffman’s

colleagues in the House of Representatives urging them to support his plan.

“With a growing national debt of \$14.8 trillion, Members of Congress should not have exclusive access to lucrative pension plans that other federal employees do not. I strongly urge you to support Rep. Coffman’s legislation,” Schatz said in the letter.

“Lawmakers should recognize that fiscal responsibility in the federal budget can start by taking personal responsibility to stop their overgenerous pensions, and our members across the nation look forward to helping Congressman Coffman pass this timely bill,” said Pete Sepp, executive vice president of the National Taxpayers Union.

“Current efforts to reduce spending and constrain the size and scope of government require that everything be on the table, including ending Congressional pensions,” Coffman said.

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