

Memorandum

To: All House Members

From: Representative Joseph Brennan

**SUBJECT: Reintroduction of Former-HB-968 PACE and PACENET Income Eligibility**

In the near future, I plan to reintroduce legislation which will correct an injustice which has been placed on all Federal retirees who previously were unable to be eligible for the PACE and PACENET Programs. With the poor state of our current national economy and the continued rising costs of prescription drugs, we owe it to our senior citizens to make certain that quality medical care is equitably available to those who have a need.

As you may know, the current Property Tax and Rent Rebate (PTRFI) program allowed individuals who received Railroad Retirement Tier 1 or Social Security benefits to exclude half of those types of income when determining their eligibility for PTRR. These financial requirements existed to permit nearly 180,000 senior citizens to be eligible for this rebate. However, one vital segment of our retirees were inadvertently overlooked; those Federal retirees who, because of their dates of employment, are ineligible for Social Security benefits.

My honorable colleague, Representative Bryan Lentz, has already seen the need to correct this issue with the PTRR program and has introduced legislation that will address the issue. However, I strongly believe that we need to correct the injustice that also exists in the PACE and PACENET programs. That is why I plan to introduce legislation which will modify the income requirements for PACE and PACENET so to allow all those who received Social Security, State Supplemental Payment, Railroad Retirement Tier 1, and any Federal retiree who due to the date of their Federal employment is ineligible to collect benefits under the Social Security Act to exclude 50 percent of that income when calculating financial eligibility. If you share in my concern, please join me in co-sponsoring this important legislation by contacting Maria Halkias in my office at (717) 772-9902 or [mhalkias@pahouse.net](mailto:mhalkias@pahouse.net)