ATPE's Federal Priorities
June 2016

- Amend federal laws and rules so as to eliminate provisions that reduce the retirement benefits of educators.

  ATPE supports the Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act (ETPSA) sponsored by Congressman Kevin Brady (R-Texas). The act repeals the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), which unfairly affects educators who are eligible for both Social Security and government pensions (such as through the Texas Retirement System). The ETPSA would modify the formula used to calculate educators' and other public workers' Social Security benefits, replacing it with a new, fairer formula.

- Oppose mandatory participation in Social Security for employees of public school districts in Texas.

- Monitor implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

- Support full funding of all federal education mandates, and minimize or eliminate competitive federal grant programs in favor of formula funding that directs dollars to all students in need.

- Oppose any program, initiative, tuition tax credit, or voucher system that would direct public funds to private, home, or for-profit virtual schools.