



## GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

### Senate introduces bill expanding provider access for federal employees injured on the job

Dec 02, 2025

Today, Sens. Collins (R-ME) and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) introduced the Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act (S. 3296).

The bill would expand access to providers by amending the Federal Employees' Compensation Act to allow federal workers injured on the job to receive treatment from physician associates/physician assistants (PAs) and nurse practitioners (NPs). Current law prohibits PAs and NPs from treating federal workers in workers' compensation cases.

Increasingly, PAs and NPs provide critical care to patients, especially in rural and underserved communities. This bill would increase the number of eligible providers, making it easier for injured federal workers, including letter carriers, to access the care they need.

In May, Reps. Tim Walberg (R-MI) and Joe Courtney (D-CT) introduced H.R. 3170, the House version of the bill. The same month, NALC President Brian L. Renfroe testified before the House Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, highlighting the urgent need to pass this bill. In June, the Committee on Education and Workforce unanimously advanced the bill, but the legislation has yet to receive a vote on the House floor.

"Postal employees account for nearly half of the claims made to the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs each year, and letter carriers file most of these claims," Renfroe said. "If we're injured on the job, finding convenient care with the provider of our choice is the top priority. NALC supports this bill and calls on Congress to pass it."

[Click here](#) for the fact sheet.

[Click here](#) to ask your members of Congress to co-sponsor H.R. 3170/S. 3296.

# House establishes bipartisan postal caucus

Jul 30, 2025

Today, Reps. Nikki Budzinski (D-IL), Chris Pappas (D-NH), Andrew Garbarino (R-NY), and Jack Bergman (R-MI) announced they would lead the House bipartisan postal caucus in the 119th Congress.

“NALC appreciates these representatives leading the bipartisan postal caucus,” NALC President Brian L. Renfroe said. “Protecting letter carriers, strengthening the Postal Service’s universal network, keeping USPS a public, independent agency, and pursuing commonsense financial reforms are critical to our daily service to nearly 169 million homes and businesses that rely on us.”

“NALC looks forward to working with the leaders of the postal caucus and all its members on these priorities,” he added.

Rep. Budzinski said she plans “to push back against postal privatization, improve speed and service, and protect good-paying union jobs at USPS.”

Rep. Pappas called the Postal Service “an essential public service that seniors, families, and businesses rely on for their medications, mail and packages.”

Rep. Garbarino laid out his objectives to “support postal workers, ensure the system operates efficiently and effectively in every community, and advance commonsense reforms that strengthen the Postal Service long term.”

Rep. Bergman referenced the need for “modernization and reform” but explained that *“changes must not come at the expense of rural and remote communities.”*

## Resolution recognizing Postal Service 250th anniversary introduced in Senate

Jul 24, 2025

Today, Sens. Gary Peters (D-MI) and Dan Sullivan (R-AK) introduced a resolution recognizing the 250th anniversary of the Postal Service. [S. Res. 337](#) was introduced with eight other bipartisan co-sponsors: Sens. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Maggie Hassan (D-NH), Thom Tillis (R-NC), Elissa Slotkin (D-MI), Mike Crapo (R-ID), Susan Collins (R-ME) and Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH).

The resolution recognizes the historical significance of the Postal Service, honors the public servants who have served and continue to serve the agency, and invites the public to commemorate this milestone by recognizing a postal employee, sending a letter, or purchasing stamps.

“NALC thanks Ranking Member Peters and Sen. Sullivan for leading this resolution that celebrates one of the most important and beloved institutions in America, the Postal Service,” NALC President Brian L. Renfroe said.

“Letter carriers have always been what make the Postal Service strong, carrying out its universal service obligation every day. On this anniversary, NALC members should be proud of everything we’ve accomplished since the establishment of our nation’s post office. Let this commemoration reignite our passion, energy and unity to keep fighting like hell for letter carriers for the next 250 years and beyond.”

# House adjourns for August recess with Senate set to adjourn Aug. 1; schedule district meetings with your members of Congress

Jul 24, 2025

The House has adjourned for the summer August recess with the Senate set to head to their home states on Aug. 1. Both chambers are scheduled to reconvene on Sept. 2.

Following a busy few months, in which the budget reconciliation package finally became law, September is already shaping up to be a busy month in Washington. Congress is expected to begin the reconciliation process for Fiscal Year 2026 starting this fall, meaning NALC members must be ready to fight.

The August recess is an excellent time to engage with your members of Congress while they are home in their districts. Attend a town hall or reach out to the district office to schedule a meeting to educate your legislators on NALC's priority issues.

You can find your House representative's contact information [here](#) and your Senators' contact information [here](#).

[Click here](#) to familiarize yourself with NALC's priority legislation, check if your members of Congress are cosponsoring NALC's bills, and access fact sheets.

When meeting with your members of Congress, make sure they know who we are. There is so much to highlight.

- 30 percent of letter carriers are veterans.
- We serve as eyes and ears of American communities, keeping them safer and often being the first to step in and help when something is wrong.
- We are community leaders, leading the annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive.
- We uphold the universal service obligation by getting the job done every day, whatever the challenges.

Regardless of whom you meet with and what state or district they represent, their constituents undoubtedly rely on the universal service letter carriers dutifully provide. When members of Congress hear directly from you about your work, who we are, what issues matter to letter carriers, and why a strong Postal Service is essential, our impact grows.

If you have any questions, [please contact](#) your NALC legislative and political organizer.

July 23, 2025

## NALC President Brian L. Renfroe testifies before Congress on urgent need to protect letter carriers from crime

Today, NALC President Brian L. Renfroe testified before the House Subcommittee on Government Operations at a hearing on mail theft and crime.

In his opening remarks, President Renfroe set the tone with a clear message. "To protect America's mail, we must start with protecting the people who deliver it," he said.

While once rare, Renfroe explained that these crimes and assaults have been on the rise in recent years. He urged Congress to pass the bipartisan Protect Our Letter Carriers Act (H.R. 1065/S. 463), referencing the five letter carriers who have been tragically murdered on the job in the last few years, the thousands of other letter carriers who have been victims of crime, and the alarmingly low conviction rates for these cases.

Regarding the Postal Service's Project Safe Delivery plan, Renfroe said NALC supported the initiative and the work of the Postal Inspection Service, but that "the scope of the problem has severely outgrown their capacity to protect us."

"We can't wait for another letter carrier to be murdered or more violent federal crimes against civil servants who serve the American people every day to decide it's finally time for legislative action. The time is now," he said.

Renfroe reminded the subcommittee that this is "not a partisan or political issue" or "a finger pointing exercise or blame game."

"It is a problem that everyone should recognize and be 100 percent behind addressing. No one wants violent crime in their neighborhood," he added.

Renfroe emphasized that protecting letter carriers must be a top priority. "Letter carriers want nothing more than to serve our people, but we must be protected. And the people that commit these crimes must be arrested, prosecuted, convicted, and sentenced."

The subcommittee also included witnesses Brendan Donahue, Inspector in Charge at the U.S. Postal Inspection Service; Julius Rothstein, Deputy Inspector General at the U.S. Postal Service Office of the Inspector General; Frank Albergo, President of the Postal Police Officers Association; and Anthony Holloway, Chief of Police at the St. Petersburg, Florida Police Department.

Overall, questions focused on types of mail theft, what is driving an increase in these crimes, the role of postal police officers, Project Safe Delivery, and what more can be done to protect mail and postal employees.

In his opening remarks, Chairman Pete Sessions (R-TX) recognized that criminals have increasingly targeted letter carriers, referencing an 845 percent increase in letter carrier robberies from 2019 to 2023.

In his questioning, Ranking Member Kweisi Mfume (D-MD) emphasized that mail theft is about more than data. "It's also about human beings who are on the other side of the equation. We refer to them as letter carriers. They work day in and day out to make sure that the service that we've come to take for granted is still there," he said.

Ranking Member Mfume then asked Renfroe how the current postal lock and key system works. Renfroe explained the issues with the current method, referenced the Postal Service's modernization efforts, and explained that passing the bipartisan Protect Our Letter Carriers Act is the most efficient way to modernize all postal locks and keys.

President Renfroe's full testimony is available [here](#).

July 17, 2025

## Anti-privatization resolution reaches bipartisan majority in House

Today, H. Res. 70 reached a bipartisan majority in the House with 218 representatives—202 Democrats and 16 Republicans—co-sponsoring. The resolution calls on Congress to take all appropriate measures to ensure the Postal Service remains an independent agency of the federal government and not subject to privatization.

"Reaching a House majority sends a clear message that any privatization proposal would be dead on arrival in Congress," NALC President Brian L. Renfroe said. "This milestone comes at a critical time, only a few days after the new postmaster general started his tenure.

"This majority threshold should remind the administration, private shippers, and members of Congress who have not yet signed on that Americans have no appetite for privatization. They trust the Postal Service and their letter carriers. They want the agency to succeed. That starts with ensuring USPS remains an independent, non-taxpayer-funded, nonpartisan agency."

While we celebrate this achievement, there is still work to do to increase House co-sponsors and reach majority support for the Senate companion resolution, [S. Res. 147](#). [Click here](#) to take action.

"Letter carriers should be proud of their hard work to reach majority support in the House," President Renfroe said. "Let's work together to continue that effort in the Senate and keep fighting like hell to reach a majority in both chambers."

## Heat safety bill reintroduced in House and Senate

Jul 16, 2025

Today, the Asunción Valdivia Heat Illness and Fatality Prevention Act of 2025 was reintroduced in the House and Senate. Rep Judy Chu (D-CA) led the House version with original co-sponsors Reps. Bobby Scott (D-VA) and Alma Adams (D-NC). Sen. Alex Padilla (D-CA) led the Senate bill with original co-sponsors Sens. Ed Markey (D-MA) and Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV).

This bill, which has been introduced in both chambers in previous Congresses, would direct the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to issue a safety and health standard to protect workers, including postal employees, from heat-related injuries and illnesses. It would also direct employers to provide heat-related training and hazard advisories for employees.

NALC supports this legislation and has worked to ensure that our priorities to protect letter carriers are included in the bill. These provisions include fully paid required rest breaks; compelling OSHA to set up criteria for rest, water, shade and acclimatization; extending the statute of limitations for whistleblowers to report heat-related issues from 30 days to 180 days; and extending the statute of limitations for OSHA to bring heat-related citations against employers from six months to four years.

After years of NALC leading the fight for a national heat safety standard, OSHA finally released a proposed heat safety standard rule last year. Last month, [NALC President Brian Renfroe testified](#) at an informal rulemaking hearing in support of the rule.

"Extreme heat poses immense dangers to letter carriers," President Renfroe said. "Implementing a national heat safety standard is the comprehensive solution to protect letter carriers and all workers who work outside from the heat. NALC supports efforts that will accelerate the regulatory process to fully implement this critical rule."

July 03, 2025

## Reconciliation bill heads to president's desk following House passage; NALC defeats pressing threats to letter carriers

Today, in a party-line 218-214 vote, the House passed the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1). The bill, which [originated in the House](#) in May, returned to the chamber after being significantly altered and [passed in the Senate on Tuesday](#). The bill now heads to President Trump's desk for his signature.

Of particular note to letter carriers, the final package was stripped of any provision that would negatively impact letter carriers, our bargaining rights, and the postal network.

In the last two months of congressional consideration, many direct threats were proposed. These included increasing Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS) contribution rates as high as 15.6 percent, calculating annuities based on the high-5 average salary instead of the current high-3, eliminating the FERS Special Annuity Supplement, forcing new federal hires to choose between at-will employment or an

increased FERS contribution, imposing a fee for Merit Systems Protection Board Claims and Appeals, taking back unspent funds designated for USPS electric vehicles (EVs) and requiring the agency to sell all its EVs and associated infrastructure, and attacks on other federal employees' collective bargaining rights.

Ultimately, NALC successfully got all threats directly targeting letter carriers removed.

"Letter carriers' activism and NALC's strong bipartisan relationships helped us defeat devastating provisions for current and future letter carriers," NALC President Brian L. Renfroe said. "We successfully delivered a powerful message to Capitol Hill. When lawmakers come after our 295,000 members' jobs, retirements and futures, we say, 'Hell no!'"

Overall, H.R. 1 claims to cut government spending. However, it allocates billions of dollars for border security, immigration enforcement, and defense measures and makes permanent President Trump's 2017 tax cuts while extending corporate tax breaks. All the while, the measure limits eligibility and funding for Medicaid, student loan repayments, and clean energy tax credits. The bill is estimated to increase the deficit by \$3.3 trillion over 10 years and cost \$507.6 billion over the same time.

"While the White House and some in Congress may claim victory following today's passage, the real victory is NALC fending off innumerable attacks on our retirement benefits and the postal vehicles we desperately need in a massive bill that guts working families," Renfroe said. "This legislation prioritizes corporations and the wealthiest Americans, instead of the workers who keep this country running.

"I am proud that NALC members came together and fought like hell to defend what we've earned, deserve and were promised. Unfortunately, this process is expected to happen again later this year for the next fiscal year. NALC members are ready to fight like hell, just as we do every day to protect each other."

July 01, 2025

## Senate passes reconciliation package; NALC activism defeats attacks on retirement benefits and new postal vehicles

Today, in a party-line 51-50 vote, with a tie-breaking vote from Vice President JD Vance, the Senate narrowly passed the updated One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1). The final vote came after a daylong vote-a-rama, where a record-breaking number of amendments were filed.

The budget reconciliation process allows Senate Republicans to bypass Democratic opposition and advance President Trump's sweeping tax, immigration, energy, and healthcare agenda with a simple majority, rather than the usual 60-vote threshold.

Notably, thanks to NALC's efforts, two major attacks on letter carriers that were proposed during the Senate process were ultimately removed from the package.

Increasing the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) contribution rate to 15.6 percent for all postal employees hired after Jan. 1, 2026, and taking back any unspent funds designated for USPS electric vehicles (EVs) and requiring the agency to sell all its EVs and associated infrastructure were removed.

"I would like to thank every letter carrier who contacted their members of Congress to help us win this fight," NALC President Brian L. Renfroe said. "While the process is not over, this

is a major step forward to guaranteeing our retirement benefits stay off the table and the new postal vehicles we desperately need are protected. This victory is a powerful reminder of what's possible when our union comes together and fights for what is best for every letter carrier."

During the vote-a-rama, Sen. Joni Ernst (R-IA) introduced an amendment of the idea that had already been shut down: rescinding any unspent funds for USPS EVs. The amendment failed.

Overall, H.R. 1 aims to cut government spending while extending corporate tax breaks. It would make permanent President Trump's 2017 tax cuts, which are set to expire at the end of the year. The package allocates billions of dollars for border security, immigration enforcement, and defense measures while limiting eligibility and funding for Medicaid, student loan repayments, and clean energy tax credits. The bill is estimated to increase the deficit by \$3.3 trillion over 10 years and cost \$507.6 billion over the same time.

H.R. 1 now heads back to the House, where the margins are razor thin. Members of the House Freedom Caucus, as well as moderate Republicans, have already expressed reservations about the Senate-passed bill, which includes notable changes from the House version that passed on May 22. These changes include increasing the debt limit by \$5 trillion instead of \$4 trillion, increasing the state-and-local tax (SALT) deduction cap to \$40,000 for five years, instead of permanently, and making permanent several business tax cuts that were temporary in the House bill.

The House is expected to vote on the bill as early as tomorrow to meet President Trump's July 4 deadline.

NALC will keep letter carriers informed as the process progresses.

## House committee advances bill to expand letter carrier access to workers' compensation providers

Jun 25, 2025

Today, the House Committee on Education and the Workforce unanimously voted (34-0) to advance the Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act (H.R. 3170).

Currently, the Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA) limits treatment for injured federal workers, including letter carriers, to physicians only. However, a growing shortage of physicians willing to accept FECA cases has created "provider deserts" in many parts of the country, making it difficult for injured letter carriers to access timely care.

H.R. 3170 addresses this gap by amending FECA to authorize nurse practitioners and physician assistants to treat these cases.

The legislation received strong bipartisan support during the markup. This bill was reported out of committee in both the 117th and 118th Congresses—the prior two congressional sessions. In the 117th Congress, it passed the House with broad bipartisan support.

"NALC appreciates the committee's unanimous support to advance this bill," President Renfroe said. "When a letter carrier, or any federal employee, is injured on the job, finding quality, convenient, and timely care is essential. NALC urges Congress to pass this critical legislation.

The next step is for the bill to be considered on the House floor, where time is limited and securing a vote can be challenging.



## PRIORITY BILLS & RESOLUTIONS

### House bills

#### **Protect Our Letter Carriers Act (H.R. 1065)**

*Status: Introduced by Reps. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) and Greg Landsman (D-OH) on Feb. 6, 2025*

*Co-sponsors: 159 (138 Democratic – 21 Republican)*

To facilitate the implementation of security measures undertaken by the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes.

**Fact sheet**

#### **Federal Retirement Fairness Act (H.R. 1522)**

*Status: Introduced by Reps. Gerry Connolly (D-VA), Nikki Budzinski (D-IL), David Valadao (R-CA), and Don Bacon (R-NE) on Feb. 24, 2025*

*Co-sponsors: 122 (104 Democratic – 18 Republican)*

To amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that civilian service in a temporary position after December 31, 1988, may be creditable service under the Federal Employees Retirement System, and for other purposes.

**Fact sheet**

#### **Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act (H.R. 3170)**

*Status: Advanced out of the House Committee on Education and Workforce on June 25*

*Co-sponsors: 17 (10 Democratic – 7 Republican)*

To amend chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to cover, for purposes of workers' compensation under such chapter, services by physician assistants and nurse practitioners provided to injured Federal workers, and for other purposes.

**Fact Sheet**

#### **USPS Shipping Equity Act (H.R. 3011)**

*Status: Introduced by Reps. Dan Newhouse (R-WA) and Suhas Subramanyam (D-VA) on April 24, 2025*

*Co-sponsors: 8 (7 Democratic – 1 Republican)*

To amend title 18, United States Code, and title 39, United States Code, to provide the United States Postal Service the authority to mail alcoholic beverages, and for other purposes.

**Fact Sheet**

### House resolution

#### **Anti-privatization resolution (H. Res. 70)**

*Status: Introduced by Reps. Stephen Lynch (D-MA) and Nick LaLota (R-NY) on Jan. 28,*

2025

**Co-sponsors:** 230 (209 Democratic – 21 Republican)

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should take all appropriate measures to ensure that the United States Postal Service remains an independent establishment of the Federal Government and is not subject to privatization.

**Fact sheet**

## Senate bills

### **Protect Our Letter Carriers Act (S. 463)**

*Status:* Introduced by Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Josh Hawley (R-MO) on Feb. 6, 2025

**Co-sponsors:** 10 (9 Democratic – 1 Republican)

To facilitate the implementation of security measures undertaken by the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes.

**Fact sheet**

### **Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act (S. 3296)**

*Status:* Introduced by Sens. Susan Collins (R-ME) and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)

**Co-sponsors:** 2 (2 Democratic – 0 Republican)

To amend chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to cover, for purposes of workers' compensation under such chapter, services by physician assistants and nurse practitioners provided to injured Federal workers, and for other purposes.

**Fact Sheet**

## Senate resolution

### **Anti-privatization resolution (S. Res. 147)**

*Status:* Introduced by Sens. Gary Peters (D-MI), Dan Sullivan (R-AK), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Susan Collins (R-ME), Thom Tillis (R-NC) and Maggie Hassan (D-NH) on March 28, 2025

**Co-sponsors:** 7 (4 Democratic – 3 Republican)

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should take all appropriate measures to ensure that the United States Postal Service remains an independent establishment of the Federal Government and is not subject to privatization.

**Fact sheet**