



GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

March 13, 2024

Protect Our Letter Carriers Act introduced in House

On March 13, the Protect Our Letter Carriers Act (POLCA) (H.R. 7629) was introduced in the House by Reps. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) and Greg Landsman (D-OH). The bill was announced at a press event outside the Capitol in Washington, DC, where President Brian L. Renfro, Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, Rep. Greg Landsman, Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY), Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD), and Rep. Donald Norcross (D-NJ) spoke in support of the legislation.

AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Fred Redmond, TTD President Greg Regan, and two letter carrier attack victims also spoke at the event.

This bipartisan legislation would provide \$7 billion in funding for the Postal Service to secure its infrastructure, including the installation of high-security collection boxes and the replacement of items carried by letter carriers with more secure electronic versions. The funding would be appropriated over five years, \$1.4 billion annually in fiscal years 2025-

2029. When key infrastructure is devalued and more secure, letter carriers will be safer on their routes.

Additionally, the legislation would increase prosecution rates for these crimes by requiring the Attorney General to appoint an assistant U.S. attorney in each judicial district to prioritize any case involving an assault or crime against a letter carrier. Their principal responsibility in the district would be to coordinate and supervise the investigation and prosecution of these crimes.

The bill would also strengthen sentencing guidelines for these crimes, ensuring that they are treated in the same manner as assaults on federal law enforcement officers.

Since 2020, there have been more than 2,000 crimes committed against letter carriers on the job. Many of these attacks involve a gun or another weapon. Letter carrier robberies climbed to 643 last year, an increase of nearly 30 percent, and the number of robberies resulting in injuries doubled, according to the United States Postal Inspection Service (USPIS).

“The rise in robberies and violent assaults being committed against letter carriers in recent years is deeply concerning and Congress must act to ensure their safety,” Rep. Fitzpatrick said. “I am proud to be leading this bipartisan effort, which provides necessary resources to protect our dedicated letter carriers while making sure we are punishing criminals to the fullest extent of the law. The men and women of the postal service are often the backbone of a community, and they work hard around the clock, rain or shine, to deliver essential goods, and I will always have their back.”

“Our letter carriers are such a big part of our lives, and we have to keep them safe. This bipartisan effort will do just that,” Rep. Landsman said.

“I urge the House to pass this bill that would protect the nation’s letter carriers who dutifully deliver medications, checks, ballots, packages, and other essential mail that all Americans depend on,” President Renfroe said.

TAKE ACTION

[Click here](#) to ask your member of Congress to cosponsor the Protect Our Letter Carriers Act.

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

March 02, 2024

President Biden announces intent to nominate Marty Walsh to USPS Board of Governors

On Feb. 29, President Biden announced his intent to nominate Marty Walsh to serve on the U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors (BOG).

Walsh's name will be sent to the Senate in order to fill one of two seats on the BOG vacated Dec. 8, 2023, when the terms of Captain Lee Moak and William Zollars expired. Walsh is a Democratic nominee. The administration has not yet put forward an intended nominee for the vacant Republican seat.

In accordance with the Postal Reorganization Act, the president nominates the nine-member BOG, which is responsible for overseeing the executive management of USPS. By law, no more than five members can be affiliated with the president's political party.

President Biden previously nominated Walsh to serve as the secretary of labor, and he led the agency from 2021-2023. Prior to service as labor secretary, Walsh served as Boston's mayor from 2014-2021. Walsh is a second-generation member of the Laborers' Local Union 223. He currently serves as the executive director of the National Hockey League Players' Association, the union representing players in the National Hockey League.

The next step for Walsh's nomination is for it to officially be sent to the Senate to be considered by the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Once advanced by the committee, his nomination needs to be approved by a Senate majority to be confirmed.

President Biden's announcement comes while NALC has a major ask pending at the White House regarding the misallocation of the Postal Service's retirement fund obligations. For more than 52 years, this unjust burden has affected the Postal Service's finances, resulting in a loss of more than \$90 billion.

President Biden has full legal authority to stop the raid on the postal pension fund. By directing the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to implement a new and fair methodology, President Biden could right this wrong with one simple executive action and safeguard the Postal Service's financial stability. This is NALC's top priority with the White House.

"Marty Walsh is a great friend of letter carriers and the NALC. His life's work is to better the lives of working people. We look forward to his contribution to strengthening the Postal Service for years to come following his confirmation to the Board." NALC President Brian L. Renfroe said.

While we are excited about Secretary Walsh's upcoming nomination, NALC's focus with the administration is to end the continued failure to fairly value the Postal Service's pension assets. President Biden can and should stop the raid of the CSRS fund immediately by

instructing OPM to implement the widely accepted and recommended valuation methodology.”

[Click here](#) to contact White House officials and ask them to stop the raid on the postal pension fund.

February 15, 2024

Tell the White House to stop the raid on postal pensions

Join us in urging the Biden Administration to act quickly to remedy this unfair misallocation. Learn more at stoppostalraid.com.

February 27, 2024

NALC urges Senate HELP committee to advance Julie Su's labor secretary nomination

In a letter to the Senate HELP Committee, NALC urges committee members to advance the nomination of Acting Secretary Su to serve as the next labor secretary.

February 14, 2024

In letter to White House, President Renfroe calls for executive action to accurately value USPS's pension assets and liabilities

On Feb. 1, NALC President Brian L. Renfroe sent a [letter](#) to President Biden again requesting executive action to direct the Office of Personnel Management to accurately value the Postal Service's pension assets and liabilities.

This is an urgent issue. All four postal unions are urging the Biden Administration to act quickly and remedy this unfair misallocation. Learn more at stoppostalraid.com.



NALC

**National Association
of Letter Carriers**

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February 27, 2024

Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

BRIAN L. RENFROE
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PAUL BARNER
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Director, City Delivery

MANUEL L. PERALTA JR.
Director, Safety & Health

DAN TOTH
Director, Retired Members

JAMES W. "JIM" YATES
Director, Life Insurance

STEPHANIE STEWART
Director, Health Insurance

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

LARRY BROWN JR.
Chairman

SANDRA D. LAEMMEL
CHARLES P. HEGE

Dear Chairman Sanders, Ranking Member Cassidy, and members of the Senate Committee on Health, Education Labor & Pensions:

On behalf of 280,000 active and retired letter carriers, I write urging you to support the nomination of Acting Secretary of Labor Julie Su to serve as the next secretary of labor. Acting Secretary Su has the experience, knowledge, and vision to lead this critical agency successfully.

Su brings a wide array of experience to the job. She has advocated for workers throughout her career as a private sector civil rights attorney, the secretary for the California Labor & Workforce Development Agency, and as deputy secretary at the Department of Labor. In that role, she worked in partnership with former Secretary Marty Walsh to promote equity and economic empowerment nationwide, revitalize workforce development partnerships, and help more Americans get good-paying jobs and a path to the middle class. For nearly a year serving as acting secretary, Su has continued this work and carried out the mission of the agency.

Given her extensive background and record fighting for American workers, Su is extremely qualified for the position. As new workplace issues continue to emerge, like automation and artificial intelligence, that will affect workers in all industries, it is critical to have a qualified, effective leader at the Department of Labor. Su is committed to delivering results for the people she serves, and we fully support her to be the next labor secretary.

Su's proven leadership and extensive experience make her an ideal candidate to lead the Department of Labor at this crucial time. When her nomination is considered in the committee today, I urge you to support her for the job.

Sincerely,

Brian L. Renfroe
President

BR/MA/jg





NALC

**National Association
of Letter Carriers**

BRIAN L. RENFROE President

100 Indiana Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001-2144

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February 1, 2024

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

On behalf of the 285,000 active and retired letter carriers represented by the National Association of Letter Carriers, I write to you once again to urge you to take executive action directing the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to accurately value the Postal Service's pension assets and liabilities.

As stated in a previous joint letter from all four postal unions in March 2021 (attached), this is an urgent matter and time is now running out for you to take action. The Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006 created a mechanism to more fairly allocate postal pension liabilities and to transfer the resulting surpluses in the postal portion of the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund (CSRDF) to the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefit Fund (PSRHBF) at designated intervals. The next transfer under the law is scheduled for 2025 and the one after that, in 2030 is too long to wait.

Our union is currently near the end of the collective bargaining process with USPS. Directing OPM to accurately value the Postal Service's pension assets and liabilities would have a direct and immediate positive impact on our collective bargaining process as we seek an agreement that will fairly reward hundreds of thousands of hard-working and dedicated letter carriers. Executing this action would support our union, our members, and our collective bargaining efforts. **Continued failure to execute this action harms these efforts.**

Given the positive steps Congress has taken to restore financial stability to the agency through the 2022 enactment of the Postal Service Reform Act, we urge your administration to fulfill its promise to take action to achieve postal pension fairness, a step that will save USPS several billions in annual amortization payments to the CSRDF and bolster the long-term solvency of the PSRHBF.

Americans rely on the Postal Service for lifesaving medications, Social Security checks, essential packages and to cast their votes. Executive action is necessary to secure the financial future of the Postal Service, the essential agency that employs the hundreds of thousands of dedicated public servants we represent.

Sincerely,

Brian L. Renfroe
President

BR/MA/jg





March 25, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As the Presidents of the American Postal Workers Union, the National Association of Letter Carriers, the National Postal Mail Handlers Union, and the National Rural Letter Carriers Association, and as the representatives of more than 500,00 postal employees, we request a meeting with you to discuss needed steps to improve the financial future of the United States Postal Service, an essential agency that employs a third of the federal civilian workforce.

As you may know, the USPS has reported considerable financial losses over the past fifteen years. These losses are not due to technological changes or the inability to economically process and deliver mail and packages to customers. Instead, they are largely due to public policy choices made by Congress related to the funding of future retirement benefits. The unique and unfair mandate to prefund retiree health benefits decades in advance, for example, accounts for 82 percent of the USPS losses since 2007. We are seeking bipartisan reform legislation to address these policies. But your administration could help with swift administrative action regarding accounting and actuarial practices related to the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS).

In 2010, the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) issued a report calling for the use of private sector accounting practices to accurately calculate the Postal Service's CSRS liabilities and to fairly allocate CSRS liabilities between the postal and federal accounts within the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund, a trust fund managed by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). The PRC found the Postal Service was being forced to pay an unfair and disproportionate share of CSRS pension liabilities in the comingled federal-postal pension fund. The Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006 (PAEA) gave the OPM the authority to correct these actuarial/accounting practices, which would add \$85 billion to the Postal Service's CSRS account and directed that the resulting surplus in the postal CSRS account be used to fund future retiree health benefits.

This change in practice can be accomplished by Executive Order. Directing the OPM to implement the recommendations of the 2010 PRC report would save the USPS several billions in annual amortization payments for the CSRS and the Postal Service Retirement Health Benefits Funds.

We would like to discuss with you and your staff the benefits of this "postal-only" calculation and how we all can work together to secure the financial future of the Postal Service. Thank you for your attention and consideration on this matter, and your continued support for working people and the public postal service.

Sincerely,

Fredric V. Rolando
President
National Association of Letter Carriers

Paul V. Hogrogian
President
National Postal Mail Handlers Union

Mark Dimondstein
President
American Postal Workers Union

Ronnie W. Stutts
President
National Rural Letter Carriers Association

February 05, 2024

Week of action: Ask the House Ways & Means Committee to hold a markup on H.R. 82

This week, join NALC in a collective week of action asking the House Ways & Means Committee to schedule a markup on the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 82).

[Click here to take action.](#)

H.R. 82 would repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO), which are parts of Social Security law that unfairly reduce or sometimes eliminate Social Security benefits of federal annuitants.

The bill has overwhelming bipartisan support with more than 300 cosponsors. Last November, a successful field hearing was held on repealing the WEP and GPO. There was enthusiastic support from legislators and witnesses for repealing these unjust Social Security penalties.

The next step to move H.R. 82 forward is for the Ways & Means Committee to schedule a markup on the bill. To keep up the momentum during this week of action, NALC is asking all letter carriers to ask their representative to tell the Ways & Means Committee to markup H.R. 82.

Important links

- [Take action](#)
- [H.R. 82 fact sheet](#)
- [NALC submitted comments on the WEP/GPO field hearing](#)

House adjourns for the year while Senate stays extra week; meet with your members during recess

Dec 15, 2023

On Thursday, the House adjourned its last legislative session of the year. House members are headed back to their districts and are scheduled to return on Jan. 9. The Senate, which was also scheduled to adjourn at the end of the week, will stay in Washington for another week with the goal of a bipartisan border security agreement and potential aid for Ukraine. The Senate is set to convene its first session of 2024 on Jan. 8.

As lawmakers wrap up the year and head home for the holidays, much work remains to be done in early 2024 and beyond. The top priority will be funding the government, which faces a two-tiered deadline, Jan. 19 for the Departments of Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, and Feb. 2 for the Departments of State, Defense, Commerce, Labor and Health and Human Services. So far, the House has passed seven of the 12 appropriations bills while the Senate has passed only three.

Deep partisan divisions have surrounded the appropriations process. Many House Republicans are pushing for steeper spending cuts while House Democrats have said they will not support anything that falls below the spending limits agreed to in the debt-limit deal reached this summer. Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) has floated the idea of a year-long continuing resolution if the 12 appropriations bills are not passed. Democrats immediately shot this down claiming the cuts would be catastrophic for agencies governmentwide.

Border security and aid for Ukraine will be another top issue moving into the new year. While the Senate is staying an extra week in hopes of passing a bipartisan border security package, it is unclear how such an agreement would be received in the House.

Some lawmakers are determined to secure more funding for Ukraine, like Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO), who is holding up the reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration until aid for the war is considered. With some lawmakers unwilling to consider it until border security is addressed, it is unclear when and if an aid package, which President Biden has repeatedly called for, will pass both chambers.

While January is set to be a busy month in Washington, the holiday recess is an excellent time to connect with your members of Congress while they are home in their districts and states. NALC members are encouraged to attend any town halls and to reach out to district offices to schedule meetings to educate their members 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. If you have any questions, [please contact](#) your NALC legislative and political organizer.

You can also start planning the year ahead with [NALC's congressional calendar](#). NALC encourages all letter carriers to familiarize themselves with the schedule and to know when their representative and senators plan to be in their districts and states to plan meetings accordingly.



House bills

Protect Our Letter Carriers Act - H.R. 7629

Status: Introduced by Reps. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) and Greg Landsman (D-OH) on March 13, 2024

Co-sponsors: 14 (9 Democratic – 5 Republican)

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

Fact sheet

Social Security Fairness Act - H.R. 82

Status: Introduced by Reps. Garrett Graves (R-LA) and Abigail Spanberger (D-VA) on Jan. 9, 2023

Co-sponsors: 311 (205 Democratic – 106 Republican)

To repeal provisions that reduce Social Security benefits for individuals who receive other benefits, such as a pension from a state or local government.

Fact sheet

Federal Retirement Fairness Act - H.R. 5995

Status: Introduced by Reps. Derek Kilmer (D-WA), Gerry Connolly (D-VA), David Valadao (R-CA) and Don Bacon (R-NE)

Co-sponsors: 88 (66 Democratic - 22 Republican)

Would allow certain federal employees to make catch-up retirement contributions for time spent as non-career employees after Dec. 31, 1988, thus making such time creditable service under the Federal Employees Retirement System.

Fact sheet

Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Worker Act - H.R. 618

Status: Introduced by Reps. Tim Walberg (R-MI) and Joe Courtney (D-CT) on Jan. 30, 2023

Co-sponsors: 43 (32 Democratic – 11 Republican)

To expand the role of nurse practitioners and physician assistants in providing services to injured federal workers under the federal workers' compensation program.

Fact sheet

USPS Shipping Equity Act - H.R. 3721

Status: Introduced by Reps. Dan Newhouse (R-WA) and Jennifer Wexton (D-VA) on May 5, 2023

Co-sponsors: 17 (15 Democratic – 2 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

Door delivery - H. Res. 376

Status: Introduced by Reps. Dave Joyce (R-OH) and Sanford Bishop (D-GA) on May 9, 2023

Co-sponsors: 37 (24 Democratic – 13 Republican)

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Postal Service should take all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of door delivery for all business and residential customers.

Fact sheet

Senate bills

Social Security Fairness Act - S. 597

Status: Introduced by Sens. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Susan Collins (R-ME) on March 1, 2023

Co-sponsors: 53 (41 Democratic – 9 Republican – 3 Independent)

To repeal provisions that reduce Social Security benefits for individuals who receive other benefits, such as a pension from a state or local government.

Fact sheet

Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act - S. 131

Status: Introduced by Sens. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Susan Collins (R-ME) on Jan. 30, 2023

Co-sponsors: 5 (3 Democratic – 1 Republican 3 – 1 Independent)

To expand the role of nurse practitioners and physician assistants in providing services to injured federal workers under the federal workers' compensation program.

Fact sheet