



# THE BRANCH 324 BUZZ



February 2020

Legislative Edition

## H.R. 2382 - USPS Fairness Act

In 2006, the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act (PAEA) was enacted, a postal reform law with a mandate that USPS “pre-fund” decades’ worth of health benefits for its future retirees. This liability is unique to the Postal Service since no other public or private enterprise in America is required to pre-fund retiree health benefits (RHB). The mandate manufactured a financial crisis in an otherwise profitable agency. NALC fully supports the elimination of this mandate through passage of the bipartisan USPS Fairness Act (H.R. 2382). As reported in the Postal Service’s annual 10-K financial statements, the mandate has cost an average of \$5.4 billion annually since 2007 and is responsible for 92 percent of USPS losses over the last twelve years. Were this burden not imposed, USPS would have recorded surpluses of nearly \$4.0 billion since 2013. The pre-funding mandate has prevented the agency from properly investing in its networks. Even worse, the resulting financial losses have been used to both threaten core services that Americans rely on - such as door-to-door service, six-day delivery, and convenient post office hours - and to advance proposals to privatize the Postal Service and attack the jobs and rights of America’s postal employees.

USPS is at the heart of a \$1.4 trillion mailing industry that employs 7.5 million Americans. Its unmatched networks link more than 157 million American households and businesses to each other seven days a week. It is essential to our nation’s voting systems and to multiple industries, communities and populations, including: e-commerce; prescription drugs; the nation’s paper, publishing, and advertising businesses; and to millions of small businesses and tens of millions of citizens in rural, suburban, and urban communities across the country. The Postal Service, the most trusted and highest-rated agency in the federal government, plays an essential role in our economy. Its current financial crisis need not continue. If the prefunding mandate were removed and a new rate-setting system (now being developed by our regulators) were installed, the agency would be well-positioned to thrive in the 21st Century by investing in its networks and new products and improving service quality - all while honoring its retiree health obligations.

Please call Congressman Ken Buck and ask him to co-sponsor this important piece of legislation. It is critical to for the future of the USPS. You can leave a message if you get their voicemail.

**Greeley Office: (970) 702-2136**

**Washington, DC Office: (202) 225-4676**

As of February 2nd, 2020, this bipartisan piece of legislation has 301 co-sponsors and has more bipartisan support than ever before as a resolution in previous sessions. Please help us get Congressman Buck to support this piece of legislation.

## S. 2965 - USPS Fairness Act

This piece of legislation is a companion bill to H.R. 2382 in the House of Representatives.

S. 2965 is also a bipartisan piece of legislation and currently only has 2 co-sponsors since its creation in December 2019. The NALC is currently working with legislators in Washington, DC to get additional support in the Senate.

We are asking that you take time and call Senator Cory Gardner and Senator Michael Bennet and ask them to support this important piece of legislation. It is critical to for the future of the USPS. You can leave a message if you get their voicemail.

### Senator Cory Gardner

**Greeley Office: (970) 352-5546**

**Washington, DC Office: Phone: (202) 224-5941**

### Senator Michael Bennett

**Fort Collins Office: Phone: 970-224-2200**

**Washington, DC Office: Phone: 202-224-5852**

NALC urges all letter carriers to contact their U.S. House of Representatives member, along with their Senators, to urge him or her to co-sponsor the bills.

Additionally, NALC supports five resolutions introduced in Congress. While non-binding, these resolutions send a strong message about the breadth of support for USPS and its mission.

Thanks to the hard work of letter carriers nationwide, four of the resolutions have reached a majority of support in the House of Representatives. NALC urges all letter carriers to contact their representatives and senators to urge them to co-sponsor these resolutions.

**House Resolution 23 (H. Res. 23) – Door Delivery**

**House Resolution 33 (H. Res. 33) – Anti-privatization**

**House Resolution 54 (H. Res. 54) – Six-day Delivery**

**House Resolution 60 (H. Res. 60) – Service Standards**

**Senate Resolution 99 (S. Res. 99) – Anti-privatization**

***All of these resolutions have a bipartisan majority both in the House of Representatives and the Senate.***