



The Slope
OCTOBER 2021

Legislative Updates

USPS Fairness Act passes House

Feb 05, 2020

The House of Representatives passed the USPS Fairness Act in February 2020 in a 309 to 106 vote. As letter carriers know, this bipartisan bill seeks to end the mandate for the Postal Service to prefund retiree health care decades in advance.

Passage of this legislation is a tremendous achievement for letter carriers and the broader postal community. This is the first major piece of legislation tackling postal issues that has passed the House of Representatives since the 2006 passage of the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act, which forced the disastrous prefunding mandate onto our employer. "Letter carriers should be proud of their hard work to educate members of Congress and gain their support on this very important issue," said NALC President Fred Rolando. "House passage is a major victory in the battle to end this disastrous mandate, but our work is not done. We must now turn our attention to the Senate." NALC asks letter carriers to please thank their Members of Congress who voted in support of the bill. NALC will continue to monitor this critical bill's progression and be sure to keep letter carriers up to date on any movement.

When the new Congress took over after the November election, the NALC had to work harder to get similar legislation introduced once again. All the hard work letter carriers have done can't be carried over into the new Congress.

USPS Fairness Act Reintroduced in House and Senate

Feb 04, 2021

This week, the USPS Fairness Act was reintroduced in the House (H.R. 695) and Senate (S. 145). Both bills would repeal the mandate that the Postal Service "pre-fund" decades' worth of health benefits for its future retirees, enacted through the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act (PAEA) of 2006. In the House, the bill was reintroduced by House Transportation and Infrastructure Chair Peter DeFazio (D-OR), Rep. Tom Reed (R-NY), House Oversight and Government Reform

Committee Chair Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), Reps. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) and Collin Allred (D-TX) along with 219 bipartisan original cosponsors. Exceeding 218 cosponsors demonstrates that a majority of Congress supports the measure making it more likely to be considered on the House floor.

As letter carriers recall, the USPS Fairness Act passed last Congress by a vote of 309-106. In the Senate, the bill was reintroduced by Sens. Steve Daines (R-MT) and Brian Schatz (D-HI). The pre-funding mandate has cost an average of \$5.2 billion annually since 2007 and is responsible for 84 percent of USPS losses over the last fourteen years. Last Congress, just as momentum was building following the House vote, Covid-19 and Senate Leadership refused to act on the bill. Fortunately, with new Senate Leadership and a strong desire to address this mandate, coupled with support for repeal from the new administration and the Postal Service, the landscape is favorable for repealing the mandate. "Last Congress, our effort to repeal the prefunding mandate was derailed by Covid-19," said President Fredric Rolando. "We appreciate the leadership of the members in the House and Senate to bring the USPS Fairness Act back to the forefront of its legislative agenda. Eliminating this Congress on all options that can bring financial stability to this agency so that we can continue to serve the public."

The reason I am putting this update in this month's letter is because it affects everybody in the postal service, even the "suits" in the Ivory Tower, and the hard-working carriers that deliver the mail. If the mandate is appealed and the prefunding was gone, this would cure 90% of the financial problems. You could breathe a little easier and the State Association can worry a little less about you and your job, but not much less.

Politics in general is confusing to me, but I am learning. The major issue I am looking at now is the pre-funding issue Congress passed into law to prefund future medical coverage for all retirees for 75 years in the future. The union is working hard on this problem, I am confident the union will be successful.

This year is an election year for branch officers and other positions within many branches. Look in the NALC Constitution manual about the nomination's procedures then, go to the NALC website then look up the regulations booklet covering the procedures you must take for a successful election. If you have any questions, contact the National Business Agents office at 720-828-6840 or the COSALC at 970-217-7384 (Danielle Fake-Moorman) or 970-396-0702 (Doug Jaynes).

*"Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night
stays these couriers from the swift completion of
their appointed rounds."*

Be Safe, Keep in touch, In Unity.
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