



June 12, 2018

Dear Representative,

On behalf of more than 500,000 postal employees, who are a critical part of the \$1.4 trillion mailing industry, which employs 7.5 million Americans in total, we urge you to oppose the Securing the International Mail Against Opioids Act of 2018 (H.R. 5788), which will be on the House floor this week.

The opioid epidemic that is plaguing our nation touches every part of the country with few, if any, Americans immune to its impacts. It has certainly afflicted the families and friends of U.S. Postal Service (USPS) employees. We take this issue very seriously and we are fully committed to working with Congress to solve this problem any way we can.

We support H.R. 5788 as introduced. It was certainly a reasonable and acceptable measure to aid the fight against illicit opioids. However, the changes to the bill now being considered in the form of a manager's amendment are not acceptable. We cannot support subjecting the Postal Service or its customers to civil penalties given the constraints imposed on the USPS by the Universal Postal Union (UPU) conventions. Nor in this UPU context do we think it is reasonable to reduce the amount of time the Postal Service has to reach 100 percent compliance with the AED mandate.

Were this bill as amended to be signed into law, USPS could be forced to enact a series of cost-saving actions that frequently result in reductions of service, consolidation and closing of offices, and cuts to the employee workforce. Such actions ultimately come to the detriment of the American public, the very people this bill is attempting to aid.

In the honest effort to address the trafficking and shipping of illicit opioids, lawmakers must be mindful not to enact measures that might cause undue, unintended harm to the American public or its agencies. As amended, H.R. 5788 would have serious negative impacts on the Postal Service and would disrupt the agency's already fragile finances.

It is for these reasons we urge you to oppose H.R. 5788 in its amended form. The postal workforce remains committed to working with you and your colleagues in fighting this epidemic and welcomes any opportunity to provide our unique input on this matter.

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

Jeanette Dwyer
President
National Rural Letter Carriers Association