



NALC



Legislative Update

Medicare premium increase: Call your reps!

As NALC members may have heard, the Social Security Administration recently announced that there would be no cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for 2016. As a result, Medicare Part B premiums and deductibles are set to spike beginning this January. Fortunately, legislation to fix the issue has been introduced in both the House and Senate. [Click here to read about the bills.](#) All NALC members should ask their House and Senate members to co-sponsor these bills to correct this injustice to federal and postal retirees. Please call the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121 to get started.

Budget deficit reduction bill

This week, House lawmakers passed a package that would repeal parts of the 2010 Affordable Care Act law dealing with the individual and employee mandates, the 2.3 percent tax on medical devices, the upcoming tax on high-cost employer plans and the soon-to-be implemented mandate of automatically enrolling new full-time employees in health care coverage. The bill also would block funding for Planned Parenthood for one year while providing funds to community health centers for women's health care. The bill seeks to reduce the deficit by \$85.9 billion over 10 years. The White House issued a statement of administration policy pledging to veto the package. [Click here to read more.](#)

House applies Band-Aid to debt ceiling

House lawmakers passed the Default Prevention Act (S. 692), which claims to prevent a default on the nation's debt but actually instructs the U.S. Treasury to give priority to paying the principal and interest owed on our national debt over other financial obligations—such as Social Security and Medicare benefits. The action was prompted by Treasury Secretary Jack

Resolution tracker

[H.Res. 12](#) (six-day):
222 co-sponsors
— [Fact Sheet](#)

[H.Res. 28](#) (door delivery):
173 co-sponsors
— [Fact Sheet](#)

[H.Res. 54](#) (service standards):
218 co-sponsors
— [Fact Sheet](#)

Surface transportation advances in House

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has passed a six-year surface transportation bill. Highway funding is set to expire on Oct. 29, which means the House must pass the measure and work out the differences between it and another House bill approved by the Senate earlier this year. It is expected that Congress will authorize another short-term extension to continue working toward reconciling the House and Senate bills. [Click here to read more.](#)

Attend a town hall meetings

NALC activists are encouraged to attend these events and engage with their representatives on issues of importance to letter carriers and the U.S. Postal Service. For a list of upcoming town halls conducted by members of Congress, [click here.](#)

Lew's announcement that the Treasury is moving up the debt-ceiling deadline to Nov. 3. The White House promised to veto S. 692 and called on Congress to enact a clean bill to raise the debt limit. [Click here to read more.](#)

Defense bill vetoed

Following passage of it earlier this month by both congressional chambers, the President Obama vetoed the annual defense policy bill that authorizes Fiscal Year 2016 appropriations and sets policies with regard to the military activities of the Department of Defense, military construction, and the national security programs of the Department of Energy. Obama vetoed the measure due to its allocation of \$38 billion extra for overseas contingency operations funds, which would be used to supplement the Pentagon's operations. Democrats have vowed to oppose measures that do not lift non-defense spending caps. [Click here to read more.](#)

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