Carper introduces iPost

Sen. Tom Carper (D-DE), ranking member of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, introduced the Improving Postal Operations, Service and Transparency (iPost) Act of 2015. NALC President Fredric Rolando has issued a statement on the bill, and your Department of Legislative and Political Affairs has put together an analysis of the bill. Click here to read more.

Defending Postal Delivery for the Future Act introduced in the House

Reps. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ) and Ruben Gallego (D-AZ) have introduced H.R 3464, the Defending Quality Postal Delivery for the Future Act, to prevent the U.S. Postal Service from closing any post office or postal facility that serves a high-growth ZIP code. The bill aims to help reverse the scheduled closings in areas where there has been a high rate of population growth. Click here to read more.

Senate introduces bill to repeal excise tax

When Congress passed the 2010 Affordable Care Act in 2010, it scheduled for 2018 a 40-percent tax on health insurance expenditures greater than $10,200 per person and $27,500 per family. Sens. Dean Heller (R-NV) and Martin Heinrich (D-NM) have introduced the Middle Class Health Benefits Tax Repeal Act to repeal this excise tax. Click here to read more.

Worker protections act introduced in House, Senate

On Sept. 16, Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA) and Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) introduced the Workplace Action for a Growing Economy (WAGE) Act, a bill that aims to strengthen the protections for workers who band together and to ensure that corporations that violate workers’ rights face real-life consequences. Click here to read more.

Resolution tracker

H.Res. 12 (six-day):
218 co-sponsors
— Fact Sheet

H.Res. 28 (door delivery):
166 co-sponsors
— Fact Sheet

H.Res. 54 (service standards):
200 co-sponsors
— Fact Sheet

Shutdown Watch 2015

With less than two weeks before the end of the fiscal year on Sept. 30, and with a looming stalemate in budget negotiations, the possibility of a government shutdown remains unclear. The battle du jour is the continued funding of Planned Parenthood, a battle that could have a domino effect—leading more conservative members in the House to increase momentum on an effort that began prior to the August recess to oust Speaker of the House John Boehner (R-OH). President Obama has indicated that he will veto any measure that defunds Planned Parenthood.

There are fewer than five legislative days to go in September, so a short-term continuing resolution (C.R.) will likely be considered to keep the government open past Sept. 30. In the event of a shutdown, lawmakers have already introduced legislation to restore pay to federal employees who would be furloughed in a shutdown. And Pope Francis’ visit to DC next week could make it tough to get anything done in Washington. But letter carriers will remain on the job through it all, and NALC will remain vigilant in monitoring all Capitol Hill activities.