

Tell Congress to oppose cuts to letter carrier retirement benefits

On April 30, as part of the budget reconciliation process, the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability advanced a measure that would reduce benefits for federal employees, including letter carriers.

These proposals include:

- Increasing the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) contribution rate for existing employees up to 4.4%
- Cutting retirement benefits by eliminating the FERS special annuity supplement
- Reducing annuity payments by calculating a retiree's annuity based on their high-five salary average (instead of three)

Our benefits are not free. We earn them through hard work and contributions.

Please visit nalc.org/action to contact your representative and ask them to oppose cuts to letter carriers' retirement benefits.

The budget reconciliation process allows Republican leaders in Congress to pass these provisions with a simple majority and bypass Democratic opposition, making it easier for them to cut services, many directly targeting active and retired letter carriers and federal employees.

The Republican-supported House budget resolution that passed earlier this year tasked the COR committee with cutting \$50 billion. This measure aims to meet this threshold by cutting federal employee benefits at a cost to the employees.

Chairman James Comer (R-KY) said these cuts would save federal funds while Acting Ranking Member Stephen Lynch (D-MA) referred to it as an attack on the federal government and its workers.

Many Democratic members praised federal employees for their dedicated service and spoke against benefit cuts.

One Republican, Mike Turner (R-OH), opposed the measure. "I believe that making changes to pension retirement benefits in the middle of someone's employment is wrong. Employee benefits are not a gift. They are earned," he said.

Several amendments were introduced at the markup, but all were rejected. Notably, Rep. Emily Randall (D-WA) introduced an amendment to add the text of the Federal Retirement Fairness Act (H.R. 1522). H.R. 1522 would allow federal employees, including letter carriers, to make catch-up retirement contributions for time served as non-career employees, making it credible under FERS. Although the amendment failed, H.R. 1522 remains a top priority for NALC.

"NALC completely opposes this measure," NALC President Brian L. Renfroe said. "We see this for what it is—a pay cut for letter carriers and all federal employees.

"Our retirement benefits aren't free handouts. We earn them through our years of service and contributions.

"Taxpayers don't fund the Postal Service or letter carriers' retirement benefits. Cutting our benefits will do nothing to improve the federal deficit. If Congress wants to balance the budget, changes to our independently funded retirement benefits will not do it and should be off limits.

"This is a disgusting attack on every letter carrier, postal employee and federal employee. We will continue fighting like hell against these attacks to preserve the retirement benefits that we've earned, and that we already pay our fair share for every pay period."

The next step is for the measure to be considered by the full House. Republican House leadership has indicated it plans to vote on all reconciliation measures before the end of May.

Given the controversial and harmful elements of this package, it is unclear whether it will pass in the House even with the reconciliation process. While advancing through the committee was almost certain, with extremely tight margins in the House, passing in the full chamber will be more difficult.



Food Drive Day is Saturday, May 10

The nation's largest single-day food drive is almost here. The Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger® Food Drive will be held on Saturday, May 10.

Letter carriers have teamed with other postal employees and volunteers to collect food since the first national food drive in 1993. Donations are collected from postal patrons who leave a bag of nonperishable food next to their mailbox on the second Saturday in May.

One in 5 Americans, including millions of children, senior citizens and veterans, are unsure where their next meal will come from. The Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive helps to replenish food pantry shelves for the spring and summer, when holiday food donations are usually depleted and schools are closing for the summer, meaning that they are not offering meals to students.

"Letter carriers know the struggles that people in their communities face—they see it every day," NALC President Brian L. Renfroe said. "For more than three decades, we've helped to meet their needs each May, and it's time to pull off this annual miracle again."

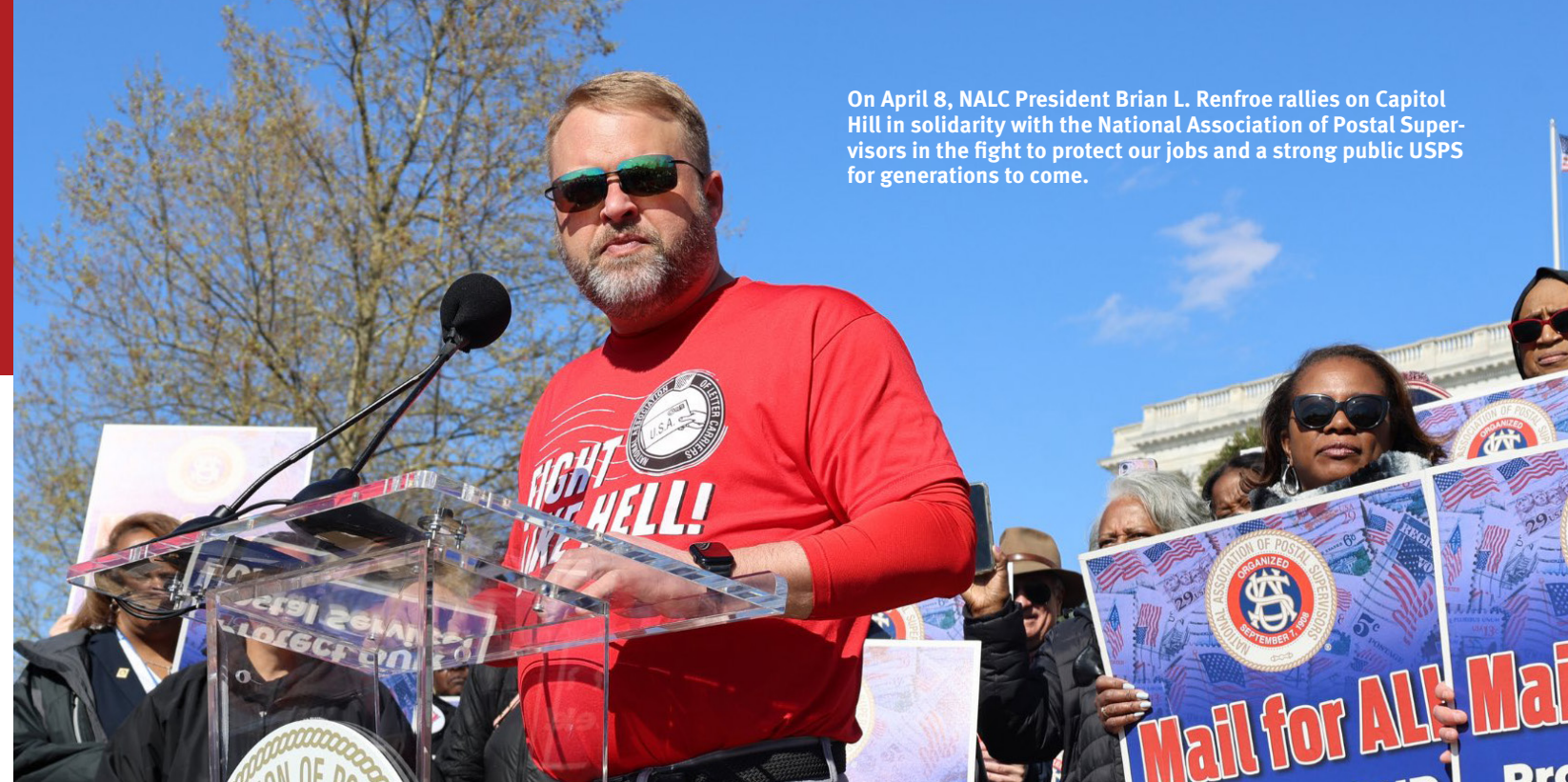
The annual food drive wouldn't be possible without the support of our national partners: the U.S. Postal Service, the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, RR Donnelley, United Way Worldwide, the AFL-CIO, Valpak, Kellanova and CVS Health. These partners help by paying for the specially marked postcards, donating thousands of pounds of food and thousands of dollars to food pantries, donating bags that letter carriers distribute to customers, gathering volunteers, or getting out the message about the food drive.

NALC's social media team along with the Communications and Media Relations Department at Headquarters, as well as our national partners, will continue spreading the word and raising awareness for the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. Remember to follow the food drive's official social media accounts on Facebook at facebook.com/StampOutHunger and on X (formerly known as Twitter) at @StampOutHunger to stay up to date and learn more about NALC's national partners. To find or send messages about the food drive on either platform, use #StampOutHunger.

Food Drive Day doesn't end until we weigh the donations to measure our success. Branches need to report the number of pounds of food they collect via the Members Only portal by June 6.

Letter carriers who have questions about the food drive should contact their local branch coordinator.

Regional and state food drive coordinators are available to assist; a contact list can be found on the Food Drive Tool Kit page at nalc.org/toolkit, under the heading "Important information for coordinators." More information about the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive can be found online at nalc.org/food.



On April 8, NALC President Brian L. Renfroe rallies on Capitol Hill in solidarity with the National Association of Postal Supervisors in the fight to protect our jobs and a strong public USPS for generations to come.

NALC's priority resolutions continue to gain support

The 119th Congress presents a critical opportunity to build new relationships and advance legislation that strengthens the Postal Service and supports letter carriers. With 63 new members in the House and 14 new senators, NALC has been hard at work educating lawmakers on the essential role of the Postal Service and the importance of protecting good-paying union jobs, strong benefits and high-quality service.

Already, three key NALC legislative priorities introduced earlier this year are gaining significant traction:

Anti-Privatization Resolution (H.Res. 70/S.Res. 147)

As this *NALC Bulletin* went to press, the resolution reached 194 co-sponsors in the House, including 12 Republicans and seven co-sponsors in the Senate. It was introduced Jan. 28 in the House by Reps. Stephen Lynch (D-MA), Nick LaLota (R-NY), Gerry Connolly (D-VA) and Andrew Garbarino (R-NY), and introduced March 27 in the Senate by Sens. Gary Peters (D-MI) and Dan Sullivan (R-AK). It signals strong bipartisan support for maintaining the Postal Service as a public, independent institution. For comparison: A similar resolution in the 115th Congress (2017-2018) reached 239 co-sponsors.

Protect Our Letter Carriers Act (POLCA) (H.R. 1065/S. 463)

At press time, the bill had 112 bipartisan co-sponsors in the House and three co-sponsors in the Senate. It was reintroduced Feb. 6 by Reps. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) and Greg Landsman (D-OH) in the House, and Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Josh Hawley (R-MO) in the Senate. It focuses on enhancing safety and security for letter carriers on their routes.

Federal Retirement Fairness Act (H.R. 1522)

As this issue went to print, the bill had 76 bipartisan House co-sponsors, including 24 original co-sponsors. It was reintroduced Feb. 24 by Reps. Gerry Connolly (D-VA), David Valadao (R-CA), Nikki Budzinski (D-IL) and Don Bacon (R-NE) and addresses retirement fairness for former non-career postal employees, allowing them to buy back time toward their federal retirement.

While none of these measures has yet become law, all three are on track to gain majority support with continued advocacy from NALC members across the country. Though resolutions like the anti-privatization measure are non-binding, they serve as important barometers of congressional sentiment—helping to shape what legislation the leadership may or may not bring forward.

For instance, if 218 or more members of Congress signal support for keeping the Postal Service a public entity, it sends a powerful message to House leaders that privatization efforts will face strong bipartisan resistance. This resolution was introduced early in the session, in part due to President Donald Trump's hostile posture toward the Postal Service—and bipartisan backing will be essential to counter any threats.

As Congress continues its work and looks toward the 2026 midterms, NALC activists must remain engaged, urging their lawmakers to support policies that strengthen the Postal Service, protect our jobs, and ensure fairness for all postal employees.

For updates, visit the Legislative and Political Affairs page at nalc.org and download the NALC Member App for alerts and notifications.

House reintroduces bill to allow USPS to ship alcohol

On April 24, Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-WA) introduced the Shipping Equity Act (H.R. 3011).

The bill, which is identical to legislation introduced in the House in May 2023, would allow the Postal Service to ship beer, wine, and other alcoholic beverages directly from licensed producers and retailers to legal customers.

Current law prohibits the Postal Service from shipping alcoholic goods, making private shippers such as FedEx and UPS the only option for wineries, breweries and other producers to have goods delivered directly to customers. This bill would allow USPS to ship these beverages and would generate an estimated \$190 million annually in new revenue for the Postal Service.

If passed into law, USPS would have two years to develop regulations ensuring that the Postal Service is prepared to safely deliver alcoholic beverages to adult consumers with appropriate identification checks. The bill also would expand access for direct-to-consumer alcoholic shipments.

Unlike private shippers, USPS delivers to every address in the nation. The current ban on the Postal Service from shipping alcohol limits access to these products for many Americans, especially in rural areas.

"NALC applauds Rep. Newhouse for introducing the Shipping Equity Act," President Brian L. Renfroe said. "The bill is an important step toward meeting the growing needs of our customers while generating revenue for the Postal Service, expanding the agency's service opportunities, and supporting small businesses nationwide."

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NALC Bulletin is published semi-regularly by the National Association of Letter Carriers. Postage paid at Washington, DC, and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Membership Department, NALC, 100 Indiana Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001-2144.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS? Contact the Membership Department.

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Circulation: 10,000. Union-printed using soy-based inks.

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