We’re keeping one eye on the Hill—you should, too

In the midst of an election season where the stakes are high, it’s easy to forget that postal reform legislation could move at any time in the House of Representatives. In fact, this past July, the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee marked up and approved the Postal Service Reform Act (H.R. 5714). NALC has been intimately involved with the committee and other stakeholders on shaping the bill’s provisions, and lawmakers have included many of the proposals we’ve backed. While we continue to work to improve the provisions of the bill—including a hardship exception for Medicare integration and reducing the pre-funding target—the legislation also unfortunately includes one provision we cannot support that seeks to reduce door-to-door delivery.

In its current form, H.R. 5714 would authorize the Postal Service to convert up to 5.5 million business delivery points from door delivery to centralized delivery or cluster boxes, and it encourages residential addresses to follow in the same path. Among the three core resolutions we always beat the drums of support for, House Resolution 28—which calls for the Postal Service to preserve door delivery—has the lowest number of co-sponsors. While 200-plus representatives in the House have added their names, we need a majority, or 218 members, to co-sponsor the resolution to show leaders in the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee that door delivery is a bipartisan, common-sense service that’s too valuable to consider cutting.

Reaching the 218 goal is possible, but not without the hard work of letter carriers. While we knock on doors, call voters and donate to help elect pro-labor candidates across the country, take a moment to call your member of Congress and ask them to co-sponsor House Resolution 28 or thank them for their support. If enough of us come together and share a collective voice on Capitol Hill at this crucial moment, Congress will have a hard time ignoring the overwhelming call to maintain door delivery in any postal reform legislation introduced.

While H.R. 5714 currently cuts door delivery, lawmakers crafting the bill have been responsive to our concerns and worked with many stakeholders to create a bill that’s a step in the right direction. We’re hopeful that if enough voices join the push to preserve door delivery, we’ll have a postal reform bill with the best chance of sailing through Congress in years.

Below you will see how H.R. 5714 compares with postal reform legislation S. 2051, the Improving Postal Operations, Service, and Transparency Act of 2015 (iPost), introduced in the Senate by Sen. Tom Carper (D-DE):