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

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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):

Comparing Postal Reform Bills: NALC's Priorities

	H.R. 5714	S. 2051
Prefunding	• Amortizes USPS' unfunded liability over 40 years with 100% funding target.	• Amortizes USPS' unfunded liability over 40 years with 80% funding target.
FEHBP	• Creates separate risk pool for postal employees and annuitants. • Mandatory enrollment in Medicare Parts A (hospital insurance) and B (medical insurance) of the Medicare program (except for those covered by FEHBP plans with fewer than 1,500 postal participants). • Provides access to low-cost prescription drugs provided indirectly to postal FEHBP plans by Medicare Part D. • Late enrollment penalty for Part B waived; includes Medicare Transition Fund.	• Creates separate risk pool for postal employees and annuitants. • Mandatory enrollment in Medicare Parts A (hospital insurance) and B (medical insurance) of the Medicare program (except for those covered by FEHBP plans with fewer than 5,000 postal participants) • Provides access to low-cost prescription drugs provided indirectly to postal FEHBP plans by Medicare Part D. • Late enrollment penalty for Part B waived during one-time open season.
PSRHBF	• Companion legislation (H.R. 5707) allows 25-30% of RHBF to be invested in private-sector stocks and bonds through TSP-like account and establishes Investment Committee to advise the Secretary of the Treasury on investments.	• Allows USPS to invest amortization payments for up to 10 years in TSP-like account, investing in higher interest bearing account or existing low-interest RHBF. After 10 years, investment income would pay remaining liability and then other obligations.
Calculating Liabilities	• Directs OPM to use postal-specific assumptions for retiree liabilities.	• Directs OPM to use postal-specific assumptions for retiree liabilities.
Exigent Rate	• Restores half of the expired exigent rate increase, or 2.15% of the 4.3% surcharge.	• Restores the full 4.3% expired exigent ate increase and freezes rates until January 2018.
Non-Postal Services	• Authorizes USPS to provide non-commercial, non-postal services to state, local and federal agencies.	• Authorizes USPS to deliver beer/wine, offer new non-postal products using its existing network which improve finances.
Workers Compensation		• Reduces FECA benefits for injured workers, lowers spousal/dependent benefits and reduces lost wage compensation at age 65.
FERS Surplus	• Authorizes amortized refund of projected FERS surpluses on the same schedule as the amortization of a projected shortfall.	• Authorizes refund of FERS overpayments up to $6 billion in first year, two-thirds of or remaining surplus in second year, and remaining surplus to be paid in installments.
Delivery Conversion	• Requires USPS to identify delivery points suitable for centralized or curbside delivery. Mandates the conversation of identified business addresses in 5 years. Encourages voluntary residential conversion.	• Encourages voluntary conversion to curbside or centralized delivery to business and residential customers. Requires customer consent.
Service Standards & Closures/Consolidations		• Freezes current service standards for 5 years. • Delays closures or consolidations for two years of any plant or facility currently in operation.