

The number is 21



**Lew
Drass**

All we need is 21 more. I am writing to ask you and your family to help save the Postal Service. Please do not stop reading yet. What I am going to ask you to do will not take long, and can be done from the comfort of your home while sitting wherever you like.

The first thing I ask is that you read this entire article. If you do, you will know all you need to know about the second thing I will ask of you.

It should be close to Veterans Day by the time you read this, so I want to begin by thanking all of you who served in the military for your service to our country. Cheers!

I wonder how many of you reading

this already know that nearly one out of every four Postal Service employees is a veteran, making USPS one of the largest employers of veterans in the country.

Additionally, USPS consistently is the highest-rated agency of the federal government in public opinion polls.

It seems to me that these are two really good reasons why our lawmakers should do everything they can to support and assist USPS in its efforts to continue as an institution in its current form.

Unfortunately, we have some lawmakers who promote ideas like privatization, altering our universal service mandate, reducing delivery days, eliminating door-to-door service and gutting the pay and benefits letter carriers earn for the service we provide to every resident of this country. Each of these ideas is a bad one. Combined, they create the conditions to dismantle and ultimately destroy USPS as a viable institution.

These lawmakers ignore the biggest problem USPS is facing, which is the requirement to pre-fund retiree health benefit costs today for unborn generations of letter carriers. This requirement began when the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act was passed in December of 2006.

It is no secret that no other federal agency or private company in the United States is required to pre-fund retiree health benefits costs at all, much less 75 years into the future, as we have to. It is also no secret that this unfair and unnecessary requirement makes up 92 percent of the total USPS reported losses since 2007 and 100 percent of the total USPS reported losses since 2013.

If you just think about it for a minute, the way to fix this problem is not that complicated. A simple repeal of the requirement to pre-fund retiree health benefit premiums is, and always has been, the answer.

Postal reform legislation has been introduced in both the House of Representatives and the Senate many times over the last several years. Some of the bills introduced have been well intentioned, and others were not. However, not one of them simply aimed to fix the biggest problem we have—until this year.

A bipartisan bill was introduced by Reps. Peter DeFazio (D-OR), Tom Reed (R-NY), Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) and Xochitl Torres Small (D-NM) on April 29. This bill is H.R. 2382, and it is called the USPS Fairness Act.

The text of this bill follows:

To amend title 5, United States Code, to repeal the requirement that the United States Postal Service prepay future retirement benefits, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 29, 2019

Mr. DEFAZIO (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform

A BILL

To amend title 5, United States Code, to repeal the requirement that the United States Postal Service prepay future retirement benefits, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “USPS Fairness Act”.

SEC. 2. REPEAL OF REQUIRED PREPAYMENT OF FUTURE 6 POSTAL SERVICE RETIREMENT BENEFITS.

Subsection (d) of section 8909a of title 5, United States Code, is repealed.

We currently have 269 co-sponsors signed on to support this bill. This Congress passed a rule that says if a bill has 290 co-sponsors, it must go to the floor for a vote. All we need is 21 more co-sponsors to reach the magic number that forces Congress to vote on H.R. 2382.

Please review the list on the next page and see if your representative is on it. The names are listed by state and district for your convenience.

If your congressperson is on the list, they are not currently a co-sponsor of the USPS Fairness Act. This does not make these folks bad people or anything, but it does tell us whom we need to talk to about becoming co-sponsors on our bill.

This brings me to the second thing we are asking of you.

We need your help to pull this off. If your congressperson is on the list below, will you please call their office and ask them to become a co-sponsor of H.R. 2382?

It is easy. Just call the U.S. House switchboard at 202-224-3121 and ask for your representative's office. They will put you through. You will be connected in about a minute or less. All you need to know is your congressperson's name or your ZIP code.

When you get someone from their office on the phone, just let him or her know who you are, that you live in their district and that you are asking your congressperson to be-

come a co-sponsor of H.R. 2382. It would also be helpful if you tell them the name of our bill and why you believe they should co-sponsor it.

Thanks in advance for making the call. Maybe you could ask some of your family members to help, too. After all, we need all the help we can get. If we can get to 290, we can pass H.R. 2382 in the House and move on to the next step in repealing the pre-funding requirement law.

In closing, I wish all of you and your families a happy Thanksgiving!

Representatives who have not yet signed on to the bill:

AL01, Bradley Byrne (R)	GA12, Rick Allen (R)	MS03, Michael Guest (R)	TN02, Tim Burchett (R)
AL02, Martha Roby (R)	GA14, Tom Graves (R)	MS04, Steven Palazzo (R)	TN04, Scott Desjarlais (R)
AL03, Mike Rogers (R)	IA04, Steve King (R)	MT00, Greg Gianforte (R)	TN05, Jim Cooper (D)
AL04, Robert Aderholt (R)	ID01, Russ Fulcher (R)	NC02, George Holding (R)	TN06, John Rose (R)
AL05, Mo Brooks (R)	ID02, Michael Simpson (R)	NC03, Greg Murphy (R)	TN07, Mark Green (R)
AL06, Gary Palmer (R)	IN02, Jackie Walorski (R)	NC05, Virginia Foxx (R)	TN08, David Kustoff (R)
AR01, Rick Crawford (R)	IN03, Jim Banks (R)	NC06, Mark Walker (R)	TX02, Dan Crenshaw (R)
AR02, French Hill (R)	IN04, Jim Baird (R)	NC07, David Rouzer (R)	TX03, Van Taylor (R)
AR03, Steve Womack (R)	IN06, Greg Pence (R)	NC08, Richard Hudson (R)	TX04, John Ratcliffe (R)
AR04, Bruce Westerman (R)	IN08, Larry Bucshon (R)	NC09, Daniel Bishop (R)	TX06, Ron Wright (R)
AZ04, Paul Gosar (R)	IN09, Trey Hollingsworth (R)	NC10, Patrick McHenry (R)	TX08, Kevin Brady (R)
AZ05, Andy Biggs (R)	KS01, Roger Marshall (R)	NC11, Mark Meadows (R)	TX14, Randy Weber (R)
AZ06, David Schweikert (R)	KS04, Ron Estes (R)	NC13, Ted Budd (R)	TX10, Michael McCaul (R)
AZ08, Debbie Lesko (R)	KY01, James Comer (R)	ND00, Kelly Armstrong (R)	TX11, Michael Conaway (R)
CA01, Doug LaMalfa (R)	KY02, Brett Guthrie (R)	NE03, Adrian Smith (R)	TX12, Kay Granger (R)
CA04, Tom McClintock (R)	KY04, Thomas Massie (R)	NV02, Mark Amodei (R)	TX13, Mac Thornberry (R)
CA22, Devin Nunes (R)	KY05, Hal Rogers (R)	OH01, Steve Chabot (R)	TX14, Randy Weber (R)
CA42, Ken Calvert (R)	KY06, Andy Barr (R)	OH02, Brad Wenstrup (R)	TX17, Bill Flores (R)
CA50, Duncan Hunter (R)	LA01, Steve Scalise (R)	OH04, Jim Jordan (R)	TX19, Jodey Arrington (R)
CO03, Scott Tipton (R)	LA03, Clay Higgins (R)	OH07, Bob Gibbs (R)	TX21, Chip Roy (R)
CO04, Ken Buck (R)	LA04, Mike Johnson (R)	OH08, Warren Davidson (R)	TX24, Kenny Marchant (R)
CO05, Doug Lamborn (R)	LA05, Ralph Abraham (R)	OK01, Kevin Hern (R)	TX25, Roger Williams (R)
FL01, Matt Gaetz (R)	LA06, Garret Graves (R)	OK02, Markwayne Mullin (R)	TX26, Michael Burgess (R)
FL02, Neal Dunn (R)	MD01, Andy Harris (R)	OK03, Frank Lucas (R)	TX27, Michael Cloud (R)
FL03, Ted Yoho (R)	MD05, Steny Hoyer (D)	OK04, Tom Cole (R)	TX31, John Carter (R)
FL04, John Rutherford (R)	MD06, David Trone (D)	OK05, Kendra Horn (D)	TX36, Brian Babin (R)
FL08, Bill Posey (R)	MI01, Jack Bergman (R)	OR02, Greg Walden (R)	UT01, Rob Bishop (R)
FL11, Daniel Webster (R)	MI02, Bill Huizenga (R)	PA06, Chrissy Houlahan (D)	UT02, Chris Stewart (R)
FL12, Gus Bilirakis (R)	MI03, Justin Amash (I)	PA10, Scott Perry (R)	UT03, John Curtis (R)
FL15, Ross Spano (R)	MI04, John Moolenaar (R)	PA11, Lloyd Smucker (R)	VA01, Robert Wittman (R)
FL16, Vern Buchanan (R)	MI06, Fred Upton (R)	PA12, Fred Keller (R)	VA06, Ben Cline (R)
FL17, Greg Steube (R)	MI07, Tim Walberg (R)	PA13, John Joyce (R)	VA09, Morgan Griffith (R)
FL19, Francis Rooney (R)	MI10, Paul Mitchell (R)	PA16, Mike Kelly (R)	VI00, Stacey Plaskett (D)
FL25, Mario Diaz-Balart (R)	MN01, Jim Hagedorn (R)	SC02, Joe Wilson (R)	WA03, Jaime Herrera Beutler (R)
GA03, Drew Ferguson (R)	MO02, Ann Wagner (R)	SC03, Jeff Duncan (R)	WI01, Bryan Steil (R)
GA05, John Lewis (D)	MO03, Blaine Luetkemeyer (R)	SC04, William Timmons (R)	WI05, Jim Sensenbrenner (R)
GA06, Lucy McBath (D)	MO04, Vicky Hartzler (R)	SC05, Ralph Norman (R)	WI06, Glenn Grothman (R)
GA07, Rob Woodall (R)	MO06, Sam Graves (R)	SC06, James Clyburn (D)	WI08, Mike Gallagher (R)
GA09, Doug Collins (R)	MO07, Billy Long (R)	SC07, Tom Rice (R)	WV02, Alexander Mooney (R)
GA10, Jody Hice (R)	MO08, Jason Smith (R)	SD00, Dusty Johnson (R)	WV03, Carol Miller (R)
GA11, Barry Loudermilk (R)	MS01, Trent Kelly (R)	TN01, Phil Roe (R)	WY00, Liz Cheney (R)