

NALC's new Legislative Action Center will help you find your members of Congress, tell you if they are co-sponsors on H.R. 2382 and how to contact them.



NALC grows support for USPS Fairness Act

The USPS Fairness Act (H.R. 2382) would repeal the mandate that USPS pre-fund decades' worth of retiree health benefits. As such, it is NALC's top legislative priority. NALC and the other postal unions launched an effort to get congressional support for the bill, beginning with a day of action, July 23, when thousands of letter carriers and other postal employees called on their representatives in Congress to co-sponsor H.R. 2382.

That bill would provide relief from the requirement that the Postal Service pre-fund retiree health care benefits—a mandate that has hung like a dark cloud over the agency since 2006. The mandate has created red ink for USPS at an average of \$5.4 billion annually since 2007; it is responsible for 92 percent of USPS losses over the last 12 years, and 100 percent of losses over the past six years.

Without this burden, USPS would have recorded a surplus of nearly \$4 billion since 2013.

"The pre-funding mandate makes the Postal Service look like a financial failure, but it's not," NALC President Fredric Rolando said. "Pre-funding has obscured the Postal Service's success story and held the agency back from making needed investments, and that's why we support the USPS Fairness Act."

The president called on NALC branches, state associations and individual letter carriers, active and retired, to mobilize in support of H.R. 2382 during the August congressional recess, which runs through Sept. 8. Thousands of letter carriers have heeded the call by contacting their representatives, launching a sustained effort to build support for the bill and for bringing it to a vote in the

House. The efforts are continuing through the fall.

Repealing pre-funding is key to achieving meaningful postal reform—freeing the Postal Service to invest in infrastructure and better utilize its universal network to serve business and residential customers.

"These are bipartisan goals that can be achieved," Rolando said, "but we need to educate lawmakers on the importance of eliminating this mandate."

The legislation, sponsored by Reps. Peter DeFazio (D-OR), Tom Reed (R-NY), Xochitl Torres Small (D-NM) and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), had 220 co-sponsors at press time. Many of the House members on the growing list of supporters signed on as a direct result of the phone calls, emails and personal visits by letter carriers in response to President Rolando's call for letter carriers to act.

NALC achieved more than 218 co-sponsors, which represents a majority of the 435 House members. This sends a strong message of support for the bill. But each additional co-sponsor greatly increases the chances of passing this legislation. Because of a new House rule that establishes a "Consensus Calendar" for broadly supported legislation, bills that have 290 or more co-sponsors can go directly to the floor for a vote without having to be recommended by a committee.

It's not too late to do your part to help pass this crucial legislation. To help, NALC launched the Legislative Action Center, giving members a powerful tool for contacting your representatives and tracking legislation in Congress. The action center can be accessed by going to the "Government



Affairs" section of the NALC Member App (for Apple and Android phones) or on nalc.org by selecting "Government Affairs" and then "Legislative Activities."

The tool was unveiled as part of the campaign to support H.R. 2382. With the tool, you can find out "Who Are Your Lawmakers" and if the member is a co-sponsor on H.R. 2382. After you put in your ZIP code and select your representative, you can see if they're a co-sponsor and their contact information in Washington, DC, and back in their home district. Ask him/her to support the U.S. Postal Service and its employees by co-sponsoring H.R. 2382, the USPS Fairness Act.

You also can reach your representative's office by calling the Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121 (be prepared to provide your ZIP code to connect to your representative). Or you can look up the local district offices by visiting his or her website at house.gov. **PR**