

# You are our strongest asset



**Brian L. Renfro**

**T**he cover story of this month's magazine details NALC's intense and ultimately successful battle in the budget reconciliation process that unfolded over the last several months. Though last month's enactment of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which prioritizes corporations and the wealthiest Americans while gutting working families, is not something to celebrate, the accomplishment of letter carriers in fending off numerous attacks from every angle is historic and noteworthy.

From severe threats to our retirement benefits and contribution rates to proposals to slow

down the much-needed modernization of the Postal Service's vehicle fleet and general anti-labor measures, threats to our futures, safety and security were on the line.

Each time a new threat emerged, NALC issued a call to action, and every time, our members overwhelmingly answered the call. Thousands of NALC members wrote to or called their members of Congress, asking them to oppose and remove every provision targeting letter carriers. When you send a letter, email or make a call to your representatives, it can feel like it goes into a void where your voice isn't heard.

But rest assured, Capitol Hill heard letter carriers. Together, NALC achieved what almost no other union or special interest group could—coming out of this process unscathed with everything intact.

Our members' consistent action, coupled with our strong bipartisan relationships in Washington, made this possible. I would like to sincerely thank every NALC member who reached out to their lawmakers. You were part of our fight, and you are part of our success.

On page 4, you can read more about all that we protected our members from. Our success is nothing short of remarkable, and I am incredibly proud of our members for uniting and fighting like hell until the very end.

**With this year's reconciliation battle behind us, now is not the time to let up.** The process is set to start again later this year for Fiscal Year 2026, and we expect to see many of the same misguided ideas that aim to cut our benefits, reduce our take-home pay, and weaken our rights as a union.

All the while, NALC still has a robust legislative agenda that we are constantly working to build support for and advance.

A major piece of that agenda is the Protect Our Letter Carriers Act (H.R. 1065/S. 463). Introduced for the first time last Congress, this bipartisan bill would deter the violent assaults and crimes increasingly being committed against letter carriers on the job. The bill would address the root of the problem by providing funding for modernized locks, keys and collection boxes; by directing district attorneys to prioritize cases involving the assault of a postal employee; and by standardizing sentencing guidelines for those found guilty of committing these crimes.

The safety of letter carriers always comes first. Even an assault of a single letter carrier is one too many. These abhorrent, violent crimes used to be rare, but in the last five years, they have increased by a shocking amount.

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I am writing this article a week before I am scheduled to testify before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform at a hearing focused on mail theft and crime. While I cannot predict how the hearing will unfold, NALC's message will be clear: Protecting America's mail starts with protecting the letter carriers who deliver it. The Postal Service's universal service obligation and the security and safe delivery of America's mail are great responsibilities that we proudly bear. But we can't succeed if we aren't protected. We will continue to urge Congress to pass the Protect Our Letter Carriers Act. Check [nalc.org](http://nalc.org) and the next issue of the magazine for more details about the hearing.

**Now is the time to build on our momentum.** While we successfully shielded ourselves from unprecedented attacks in budget reconciliation, there is still more to do. Please stay engaged and continue to answer NALC's calls to action as they come. During this month's congressional recess, schedule district meetings with your representatives and senators to ask for their support. Thank those who support us and continue building those strong relationships. Our members are our strongest asset on Capitol Hill, so please make sure your legislators hear from you and understand everything that's at stake.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Renfro'.