

News from Washington

Letter carriers focus on advancing bipartisan legislation in partisan Congress



The second session of the 119th Congress is scheduled to convene the first week of January, after this issue went to print. Although margins are slim, Republicans still hold the trifecta in Washington, with control of the House, Senate and White House.

Last November, Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA) announced she would resign on Jan. 5. After her resignation, barring any other changes, Republicans will control the House with a 219-213 majority. Republicans will continue to control the Senate 53-47 (including two independents who caucus with Democrats). The extremely tight margins continue to solidify that almost nothing can be accomplished without bipartisan support.

While partisan tensions continue to define Washington, NALC remains solely focused on advancing key priorities that will benefit letter carriers. These include:

- **Protect Our Letter Carriers Act (H.R. 1065/S. 463)**—This bipartisan bill would deter the increasing crimes and assaults committed against letter carriers by modernizing and replacing lock-and-key infrastructure, increasing prosecution rates and standardizing sentencing guidelines. At press time, H.R. 1065 had 159 co-sponsors and S. 463 had 10.
- **Federal Retirement Fairness Act (H.R. 1522)**—This bipartisan bill would allow federal employees, including letter carriers, who started their federal service in non-career positions (city carrier assistants, transitional employees, part-time flexibles) to buy back that time and make it creditable toward their retirement. At press time, H.R. 1522 had 122 co-sponsors.

- **Anti-privatization resolution (H.Res. 70/S.Res. 147)**—This bipartisan resolution expresses the sense of Congress that the Postal Service should remain a public, independent institution, not subject to privatization. As this magazine was going to print, H.Res. 70 had 229 co-sponsors and S.Res. 147 had seven co-sponsors.
- **Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act (H.R. 3170/S. 3296)**—This bipartisan bill would expand access to providers by amending the Federal Employees' Compensation Act to allow federal workers injured on the job to receive treatment from physician associates/physician assistants (PAs) and nurse practitioners (NPs). H.R. 3170 had 17 co-sponsors and S. 3296 had one co-sponsor at press time.

Page 4 features the 2026 congressional calendar. Letter carriers are encouraged to review the schedule and plan meetings with their lawmakers when they will be home in their districts and states. Maintaining local relationships is critical to amplifying letter carriers' voices on Capitol Hill. Reach out to your representatives, meet with them or their staff in the district, and educate them about our priorities and how they can support letter carriers and a strong Postal Service.

Victories, setbacks for federal employees' bargaining rights

On Dec. 11, in a 231-195 vote, the House passed the Protect America's Workforce Act (H.R. 2550). The bill would undo a March 2025 executive order that stripped collective-bargaining rights at some federal agencies by directing the removal of several government agencies from federal labor-man-

agement programs. Last August, several agencies announced the termination of their collective-bargaining agreements with federal employee unions. H.R. 2550 restores the collective-bargaining rights removed by the executive order.

Rep. Jared Golden (D-ME), the lead sponsor of H.R. 2550, used a House rule called a discharge petition to bypass Republican leadership and ultimately move the bill to the House floor. Once the discharge petition reached the 218-signature threshold, the congressman announced his plan to force a vote on Dec. 9. Two days later, the House voted on the bill. H.R. 2550 received bipartisan support from all Democrats present for the vote (211), as well as support from 20 Republicans. The bill faces long odds in the Senate.

Following this victory, union rights for Department of Defense (DOD) employees took a hit at the end of the year. Rep. Donald Norcross (D-NJ) offered an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that would restore collective-bargaining rights for DOD civilian employees. Unfortunately, this amendment was stripped out before the House passed the NDAA on Dec. 10. As this magazine was going to press, this must-pass bill, which sets the budget and funds the DOD, was expected to pass the Senate without an amendment addressing DOD civilian employees' collective-bargaining rights.

While postal employees are not affected by the collective-bargaining implications in H.R. 2550, the NDAA, or any executive order thus far, NALC continues to closely monitor anything that has an impact on our fellow federal employees' collective-bargaining rights, and we stand in solidarity with them in their continued fight. **PR**



NALC 2026 congressional calendar

When Congress is in session

	House Only
	Senate Only
	House and Senate

January						
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