



News from Washington

Congress introduces bills to nullify president's executive order limiting vote-by-mail

On March 31, President Trump issued an executive order that would severely limit vote-by-mail. Both chambers of Congress have introduced bills that would nullify this executive order and protect mail-in ballots. NALC endorsed both bills.

Sens. Gary Peters (D-MI), Alex Padilla (D-CA) and Dick Durbin (D-IL) introduced the Absentee and Mail Voter Protection (Absentee MVP) Act (S. 4369) on April 22. The bill has 40 co-sponsors. In addition to nullifying the executive order, S. 4369 would ban any similar executive orders by blocking the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) from sharing state voter lists, defunding the DOJ's efforts to compel production of state voter lists, enforcing the Privacy Act by barring federal agencies from improperly sharing voter data, both within the government and with outside groups, and defunding any future Department of Commerce efforts to enact partisan regulation of mail-in ballots.

Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-MA) introduced a similar bill, the Vote by Mail Protection Act of 2026 (H.R. 8666), on May 7. The bill has 15 Democratic co-sponsors. The straightforward bill would nullify the executive order and guarantee that no government agency funds could be used to carry out this executive order.

The executive order, which is facing legal challenges, aims to severely limit mail-in ballots nationwide. The order gives the Postal Service new responsibilities much outside its typical, constitutionally mandated operations. The order grants USPS the authority to reject and refuse delivery of ballots unless states comply with newly established federal eligibility lists. The order tasks the DHS with

building these state lists of voting-age American citizens.

"NALC appreciates Sens. Peters, Padilla and Durbin and Rep. Lynch's leadership in fighting to protect Americans' access to mail-in ballots," NALC President Brian L. Renfroe said. "Voting by mail is safe, secure, and makes it easier for tens of millions of Americans to participate in our democracy. As this executive order is considered in the courts, NALC supports these bills that protect Americans' right to vote by mail."

NALC will continue to monitor these bills and any other legislation that would affect vote-by-mail and voting rights.

Letter carriers hit Capitol Hill as NALC priority legislation continues to gain support

Over the past several months, NALC members from across the country have come to Washington, DC, to meet with their representatives, senators, and their staff. Letter carriers from Alaska, Idaho, Utah, Washington, New York, New Jersey, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland, DC and Delaware have made the trip to lobby their members of Congress.

In these meetings, letter carriers are focused on establishing and building relationships as well as sharing information about our priority legislation.

The **Protect Our Letter Carriers Act (H.R. 1065/S. 463)**, a bipartisan bill that would deter the violent crimes and assaults committed against letter carriers on the job, had 209 co-sponsors in the House and 14 in Senate as this magazine was going to print. This is only nine House co-sponsors short of the 218-threshold needed for a discharge petition. A discharge petition is a House procedure that can force a bill out of committee by overriding

the majority. NALC is actively working with the bill's lead to reach this critical number to help advance the bill.

While 218 co-sponsors are the goal, another option to advance the legislation is using the consensus calendar. This procedure is used to expedite legislation with bipartisan support of 290 or more co-sponsors. Letter carriers may recall that this was used to advance a standalone bill in the House to eliminate the retiree healthcare pre-funding mandate, which we parlayed into the Postal Service Reform Act, enacted in 2022.

These procedures create a path to bypass committee and bring widely supported bills to the floor. NALC is open to these and all avenues to move this priority legislation forward, and every new co-sponsor helps.

In addition to the Protect Our Letter Carriers Act, NALC continues gaining support for our other priority legislation, which include:

- The **Federal Retirement Fairness Act (H.R. 1522)**—146 co-sponsors
- The **anti-privatization resolution (H.Res. 70/S.Res. 147)**—235 co-sponsors in the House and seven in the Senate
- The **Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act (H.R. 3170/S. 3296)**—17 co-sponsors in the House and five in the Senate
- The **Equal COLA Act (H.R. 491/S. 624)**—78 co-sponsors in the House and 20 in the Senate
- The **USPS Shipping Equity Act (H.R. 3011)**—14 co-sponsors

Letter carriers can visit nalc.org/action to ask your members of Congress to co-sponsor NALC's priority bills. **PR**