



GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

December 20, 2024

Senate passes Social Security Fairness Act; sent to President Biden's desk

Today, in a 76-20 vote, the Senate passed the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 82). Senate passage came after the House overwhelmingly passed the bill on Nov. 12. The bill will now be sent to President Biden's desk, where it awaits his signature to become law.

"This is a massive victory for letter carriers and our fellow public servants," NALC President Brian L. Renfroe said. "For the first time in decades, affected CSRS retired letter carriers won't have their Social Security benefits unfairly reduced. They, alongside thousands of other public service annuitants, will finally receive justice by receiving the full benefits that they earned."

"I want to congratulate and thank every NALC member who lobbied their members of Congress to get this bill through the House and Senate. Our union has worked for years to repeal the WEP and GPO. Thanks to the unwavering dedication and advocacy of our members, this repeal is finally being signed into law."

The Social Security Fairness Act will repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO). These are parts of Social Security law that unfairly reduced, or sometimes eliminated, Social Security benefits of certain Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) federal annuitants, including letter carriers.

December 14, 2024

Senate scheduled to vote on H.R. 82 next week; please call your senators

The Senate is scheduled to begin consideration of the Social Security Fairness Act (H. R. 82) next week. The addition to the schedule comes after Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) announced at a labor-led rally that he would bring the bill to the floor for a vote.

The Senate will begin with procedural votes on Monday evening that require 60 votes, or two-thirds of the members present to proceed to a final vote. With 62 bipartisan supporters of the Senate companion bill, we need to ensure every cosponsor votes to advance and pass H.R. 82.

We encourage all letter carriers to contact their senators through the congressional switchboard at **202-224-3121** or visit nalc.org/action to ask their senators to vote **'YES' on ALL PROCEDURAL VOTES and H.R. 82.**

"NALC members have been fighting for years to finally repeal the WEP and GPO," NALC President Brian L. Renfroe said. "We are closer than we've ever been, and I urge all letter carriers to call their senators so we can finish the job."

More on H.R. 82

H.R. 82 would repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO), which are parts of Social Security law that unfairly reduce or sometimes eliminate Social Security benefits of federal annuitants, including letter carriers. Last month, the House voted overwhelmingly to pass H.R. 82.

[Click here](#) for NALC's fact sheet.

December 11, 2024

NALC and other unions rally to urge Senate to pass H.R. 82

Today, NALC joined other unions at a rally outside of the Capitol to call on the Senate to pass the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 82).

"Eighty thousand members of our union are retired. I often hear from these members and their families about how the WEP and GPO impact them," NALC President Brian L. Renfroe said at the rally.

"We are here to deliver this message to every senator: Vote for simple fairness for the people who have served your constituents in your state. Vote to give those who have served our communities, saved lives, protected our citizens, and educated our children the

benefits they have earned—just as we do for all the other constituents who you represent. Vote ‘yes’ and pass the Social Security Fairness Act,” he added.



Several other national labor leaders spoke at the event, including from the International Association of Fire Fighters, the AFL-CIO, the Communications Workers of America, and the American Postal Workers Union.

Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Sens. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), and other members of Congress also spoke at the event in support of the bill.

With only seven scheduled legislative days remaining for the Senate this year, time is running out to pass H.R. 82. NALC encourages all members to call **202-224-3121** or visit nalc.org/action to ask your senators to bring H.R. 82 to the floor for a vote.

More on H.R. 82

H.R. 82 would repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO), which are parts of Social Security law that unfairly reduce or sometimes eliminate Social Security benefits of federal annuitants, including letter carriers. Last month, the House voted overwhelmingly to pass H.R. 82.

[Click here](#) for NALC’s fact sheet.

Dec. 11 labor rally calling on Senate to repeal WEP and GPO

Dec 09, 2024

On Dec. 11, NALC will participate in a rally in Washington, DC, calling on the Senate to pass the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 82). President Brian Renfroe, other labor leaders, and members of Congress will speak at the event. NALC members in the DMV area are encouraged to attend to show solidarity across the labor movement to repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO).

Event details

Date: Wednesday, Dec. 11

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Location: Upper Senate Park on Capitol grounds; 260 New Jersey Ave NW, Washington, DC 20001; [click here](#) for a map

More on the H.R. 82

Last month, the House voted overwhelmingly to pass H.R. 82. It's time for the Senate to act. Call **(202) 224-3121** or visit nalc.org/action to ask your senators to bring H.R. 82 to the floor for a vote.

H.R. 82 would repeal the WEP and the GPO, which are parts of Social Security law that unfairly reduce or sometimes eliminate Social Security benefits of federal annuitants, including letter carriers.

Click here for [NALC's fact sheet](#).

Senate committee holds hearing on oversight of the Postal Service

Dec 05, 2024

On Dec. 5, the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs held a hearing on oversight of the Postal Service. The hearing focused on the proposed service changes under Postmaster General Louis DeJoy's 10-year strategic plan, the Delivering for America (DFA) plan.

While much of the hearing focused on DFA implementation, Ranking Member Rand Paul (R-KY) focused his opening remarks and questioning on the Postal Service finances and its workforce. He repeatedly argued against converting employees to career status while the agency reports losses. Sen. Paul mentioned that 80 percent of the agency's costs come from labor and suggested that this cost be lowered through contractors and reduced healthcare and pension benefits.

Chairman Gary Peters (D-MI) also referenced the Postal Service's financial situation and asked DeJoy his position on an administrative directive to the Office of Personnel

Management (OPM) regarding the allocation of the Postal Service's obligation to the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) pensions. DeJoy said he is supportive of this administrative action that would improve the Postal Service's finances.

NALC continues to advocate the administration for this long-awaited reform.

The remaining questions primarily focused on localized service and facility issues, with a few heated moments between DeJoy and Sens. Jacky Rosen (D-NV), Jon Ossoff (D-GA) and Josh Hawley (R-MO).

In her questioning, Sen. Maggie Hassan (D-NH) mentioned a New Hampshire letter carrier who was robbed at gunpoint for his postal property. She referenced provisions in the Protect Our Letter Carriers Act (XX/XX) that would devalue key infrastructure and replace it with more secure electronic versions. She asked DeJoy if he was committed to "making common sense investments to improve employee safety and customer service as part of the DFA plan." He affirmed his commitment.

On Dec. 10, the House Committee on Oversight and Reform is scheduled to hold a hearing on oversight of the Postal Service where DeJoy will testify. Check the "Government Affairs" of nalc.org for any important updates from the hearing.



House bills

Protect Our Letter Carriers Act - H.R. 7629

Status: Introduced by Reps. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) and Greg Landsman (D-OH) on March 13, 2024

Co-sponsors: 137 (115 Democratic – 22 Republican)

To facilitate the implementation of security measures undertaken by the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes.

Fact sheet

Social Security Fairness Act - H.R. 82

Status: PASSED with a 327-75 vote on Nov. 12

Co-sponsors: 330 (210 Democratic – 120 Republican)

To repeal provisions that reduce Social Security benefits for individuals who receive other benefits, such as a pension from a state or local government.

Fact sheet

Federal Retirement Fairness Act - H.R. 5995

Status: Introduced by Reps. Derek Kilmer (D-WA), Gerry Connolly (D-VA), David Valadao (R-CA) and Don Bacon (R-NE)

Co-sponsors: 130 (105 Democratic - 25 Republican)

Would allow certain federal employees to make catch-up retirement contributions for time spent as non-career employees after Dec. 31, 1988, thus making such time creditable service under the Federal Employees Retirement System.

Fact sheet

Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Worker Act - H.R. 618

Status: Reported by the Committee on Education and the Workforce (July 5, 2024)

Co-sponsors: 55 (42 Democratic – 13 Republican)

To expand the role of nurse practitioners and physician assistants in providing services to injured federal workers under the federal workers' compensation program.

Fact sheet

USPS Shipping Equity Act - H.R. 3721

Status: Introduced by Reps. Dan Newhouse (R-WA) and Jennifer Wexton (D-VA) on May 5, 2023

Co-sponsors: 23 (20 Democratic – 3 Republican)

To amend title 18, United States Code, and title 39, United States Code, to provide the United States Postal Service the authority to mail alcoholic beverages, and for other purposes.

Fact sheet

House resolution

Door delivery - H. Res. 376

Status: Introduced by Reps. Dave Joyce (R-OH) and Sanford Bishop (D-GA) on May 9, 2023

Co-sponsors: 56 (36 Democratic – 20 Republican)

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Postal Service should take all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of door delivery for all business and residential customers.

Fact sheet

Senate bills

Protect Our Letter Carriers Act - S. 4356

Status: Introduced by Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Josh Hawley (R-MO)

Co-sponsors: 2 (1 Democratic – 1 Republican)

To facilitate the implementation of security measures undertaken by the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes.

Fact sheet

Social Security Fairness Act - S. 597

Status: Introduced by Sens. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Susan Collins (R-ME) on March 1, 2023

Co-sponsors: 62 (46 Democratic – 13 Republican – 3 Independent)

To repeal provisions that reduce Social Security benefits for individuals who receive other benefits, such as a pension from a state or local government.

Fact sheet

Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act - S. 131

Status: Reported by the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee (Sept. 25, 2024)

Co-sponsors: 8 (6 Democratic – 1 Republican – 1 Independent)

To expand the role of nurse practitioners and physician assistants in providing services to injured federal workers under the federal workers' compensation program.

Fact sheet

USPS Shipping Equity Act - S. 5069

Status: Introduced by Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-WA) and Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY)

Co-sponsors: 3 (3 Democratic – 0 Republican)

To amend title 18, United States Code, and title 39, United States Code, to provide the United States Postal Service the authority to mail alcoholic beverages, and for other purposes.

Fact sheet