



GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

April 28, 2025

House reintroduces bill to allow USPS to ship alcohol

On April 24, Republican Rep. Dan Newhouse (WA-4) introduced the Shipping Equity Act (H.R. 3011) in the 119th Congress.

The bill, which is identical to legislation introduced in the House in May 2023, would allow the Postal Service to ship beer, wine, and other alcoholic beverages directly from licensed producers and retailers to legal customers.

Current law prohibits the Postal Service from shipping alcoholic goods, making private shippers such as FedEx and UPS the only option for wineries, breweries and other producers to have goods delivered directly to customers. This bill would allow USPS to ship these beverages and would generate an estimated \$190 million annually in new revenue for the Postal Service.

If passed into law, USPS would have two years to develop regulations ensuring that the Postal Service is prepared to safely deliver alcoholic beverages to adult consumers with appropriate identification checks. The bill also would expand access for direct-to-consumer alcoholic shipments.

Unlike private shippers, USPS delivers to every address in the nation. The current ban on the Postal Service from shipping alcohol limits access to these products for many Americans, especially in rural areas.

“NALC applauds Rep. Newhouse for introducing the Shipping Equity Act,” NALC President Brian L. Renfroe said. “The bill is an important step toward meeting the growing needs of our customers while generating revenue for the Postal Service, expanding the agency’s service opportunities, and supporting small businesses nationwide.”

Click here for [NALC’s fact sheet](#) on the bill, and visit nalc.org/action to ask your members of Congress to cosponsor the legislation.

Congress heads home for spring recess; schedule district meetings with your members of Congress

Apr 11, 2025

Congress has adjourned for spring recess and will not return to Washington, DC, until April 28. Both chambers left with significant legislative work still pending, most notably finalizing the federal budget, setting the stage for a busy session when lawmakers return in two weeks.

Just before the recess, the House approved a budget blueprint ([H. Con. Res. 14](#)), breaking a deadlock between the chambers over how to move forward with President Donald Trump’s legislative agenda and marking the first step in the reconciliation process. With a Republican trifecta, the budget reconciliation process allows legislation to pass with a simple majority and bypass Democratic opposition. When Congress returns, lawmakers will begin drafting legislation according to the reconciliation instructions.

When Congress reconvenes, the agenda will also include continued debate on the Fiscal Year 2026 budget, a measure expected to contain provisions that impact the Postal Service.

Congressional recess is an excellent time to schedule district meetings with your representatives to help increase co-sponsors for our anti-privatization resolution ([H.Res. 70/S.Res. 147](#)), the Protect Our Letter Carriers Act ([H.R. 1065/S. 463](#)) and the Federal Retirement Fairness Act ([H.R. 1522](#)).

Currently, the House anti-privatization resolution has 194 co-sponsors. The goal is to surpass 218 co-sponsors and have a majority of House members supporting our cause. All NALC members are encouraged to use this recess period to connect with their members of Congress and help build co-sponsors for our priority legislation.

Helpful links

- [Find your members of Congress](#)
- [Congressional calendar](#)
- [More on our priority legislation](#)

Public Service Freedom to Negotiate Act reintroduced

Apr 08, 2025

The Public Service Freedom to Negotiate Act ([S.1352/H.R.2736](#)) was reintroduced in Congress on April 8. Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-HI) led the Senate version, while Rep. Donald Norcross (D-NJ) led the House companion bill. They were joined by 122 bipartisan cosponsors in the House and 36 in the Senate. This comes at a critical time, following President Trump's recent [executive order](#) that ended collective bargaining for over a million federal workers.

First introduced in 2019, the bicameral legislation would establish a nationwide minimum standard to guarantee public-sector employees' rights to organize and collectively bargain in states where these protections do not exist. Currently, no federal law protects the right of public-sector workers to join a union, and collective bargaining is prohibited in 25 states.

"Public sector workers teach our children, protect our safety, and keep our communities moving forward—they deserve the right to organize," Senator Hirono said. "The Public Service Freedom to Negotiate Act will help ensure that millions of public sector workers across our country have the federal protections they deserve as they fight for fair wages, benefits, and improved working conditions.

"I know the power of collective bargaining because I've lived it," said Congressman Norcross, a union electrician, member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), and co-chair of the Congressional Labor Caucus.

NALC President Brian L. Renfroe strongly emphasized the union's unwavering commitment to workers' rights, stating, "NALC is proud to be an open shop with more than 93 percent voluntary membership in our union. We do not take our organizing success or collective-bargaining rights for granted, and every public sector employee deserves the right to join a union. NALC supports the Public Service Freedom to Negotiate Act that benefits and protects our fellow public servants and urges Congress to pass it," he said.

Senate introduces anti-privatization resolution

March 27, 2025

Today, Sens. Gary Peters (D-MI) and Dan Sullivan (R-AK) introduced a Senate resolution ([S.Res. 147](#)) that calls on Congress to take all appropriate measures to ensure that the Postal Service remains an independent establishment of the federal government and is not subject to privatization.

Four senators joined the bipartisan leads as original co-sponsors: Sens. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Susan Collins (R-ME), Thom Tillis (R-NC) and Maggie Hassan (D-NH).

The Senate version is identical to the House version ([H.Res. 70](#)), which was introduced by Reps. Stephen Lynch (D-MA) and Nick LaLota (R-NY) in January and currently has 180 co-sponsors.

“Letter carriers take great pride in the work they do, providing universal service to every address in the nation,” NALC President Brian L. Renfroe said. “Every member of Congress represents constituents who depend on the Postal Service. I urge every representative to sign on to this resolution.”

“For more than 250 years, the Postal Service has been a cornerstone of our nation, connecting every household and business across the country,” Sen. Peters said. “Any efforts to undermine the Postal Service’s independence or privatize it would jeopardize affordable, universal mail service and harm the millions of Americans—especially veterans, small business owners, and rural communities—who rely on the Postal Service every day. This resolution reaffirms our commitment to keeping the Postal Service independent and self-sustaining, ensuring it continues to serve as a vital lifeline for all Americans.”

“In a state as vast as Alaska, with many remote communities only accessible by air or water, the USPS serves as an essential government agency, that keeps postal services affordable for Alaskans,” Sen. Sullivan said. “I am glad to work with my colleagues from other rural states on this resolution to oppose the privatization of the USPS and ensure that this critical agency remains focused on its statutory requirement to reliably deliver mail to every household, no matter how remote.”

Take action

[Click here](#) to ask your representative to co-sponsor H.Res. 70/S.Res. 147.

[Click here](#) for the fact sheet.

Congress funds government through Sept. 30, avoids government shutdown

Mar 15, 2025

Today, President Donald Trump signed a bill to fund the government through Sept. 30, narrowly avoiding a partial shutdown.

In another contentious week on Capitol Hill, the House voted 217-213 to pass the Republican-led bill on Tuesday. Only two members crossed party lines, with Rep. Thomas Massie (R-KY) voting against the bill and Rep. Jared Golden (D-ME) voting for its passage.

On Friday, with hours left to spare before the deadline, the Senate passed the bill in a 54-46 vote. Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) supported the bill along with eight other Democratic senators and one independent (who caucuses with the Democrats).

Since Postal Service operations are not subject to the Congressional budget process, a shutdown would not have affected letter carriers’ daily work. Still, NALC remains engaged in the annual appropriations process to ensure no proposals would affect letter carriers’ benefits or any Postal Service operations.

Overall, the bill funds the government through Sept. 30 at the levels set by the fiscal 2024 spending laws. The bill increases funding for defense and immigration enforcement while cutting non-defense discretionary spending by \$13 billion, reflecting Republican priorities.

As Congress begins work on Fiscal Year 2026, debates over fiscal responsibility and the role of government agencies are expected to intensify in the coming months, focusing on defense funding, social program allocations, and broader fiscal policies. The passage of this continuing resolution marks a significant turning point in the fiscal year, with long-term implications for both immediate funding and policy.

NALC will update letter carriers as the House and Senate budget and appropriations process continues.

Senate confirms labor secretary nominee Lori Chavez-DeRemer

Mar 11, 2025

On March 10, in a 67-32 vote, the Senate confirmed Lori Chavez-DeRemer as the next secretary of labor. The confirmation followed a bipartisan 14-9 vote in the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) after a hearing on Feb. 19, where her qualifications and views on labor policies were thoroughly examined.

Earlier this year, President Donald Trump nominated Chavez-DeRemer, a former one term Oregon Congresswoman, to lead the agency. In her time in Congress, Chavez-DeRemer proved to be a steadfast ally to letter carriers and organized labor and worked across party lines to advocate for policies that strengthen labor protections, expand collective bargaining, ensure safe working conditions, and protect retirement benefits. The Department of Labor (DOL) plays a key role in advancing economic opportunities, and if confirmed, her leadership will be crucial to ensuring the safety and well-being of workers.

“NALC congratulates Lori Chavez-DeRemer on her confirmation to serve as the next secretary of labor,” NALC President Brian L. Renfro said. “We look forward to working with her in our ongoing efforts for a national heat safety standard and to improve the services administered through the Office of Workers’ Compensation Programs, which letter carriers injured on-the-job rely on.”

Prior to the Senate committee hearing, NALC issued a [statement of support](#). In advance of the Senate committee vote, NALC issued a [letter of support](#).

PRO Act reintroduced in House and Senate

Mar 07, 2025

The Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act ([H.R. 20/S. 852](#)) was reintroduced in Congress today. Reps. Bobby Scott (D-VA) and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) introduced the bill in the House, and Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) introduced the legislation in the Senate.

The PRO Act would strengthen protections under the National Labor Relations Act, ensuring workers the right to organize and collectively bargain for better wages, benefits, and working conditions.

The bill also would create a mediation and arbitration process to ensure that corporations and newly formed unions reach a first contract, authorize unions and employers to negotiate agreements that allow unions to collect fair-share fees that cover the costs of representation, and protect the integrity of union elections against coercive “captive audience” meetings.

Additionally, the PRO Act would streamline the National Labor Relations Board’s procedures to effectively prevent violations by establishing penalties on corporations that violate workers’ rights, and by combatting the misclassification of workers as supervisors and independent contractors.

“NALC is fortunate to be an open shop with more than 93 percent of letter carriers choosing to be members of our union,” NALC President Brian L. Renfroe said. “We do not take our right to organize for granted. We know that our country is stronger when workers are empowered and protected through unions. NALC fully supports the PRO Act, which would make it easier for every worker to form and join a union, and urges Congress to pass this bill.”



House bills

Protect Our Letter Carriers Act - H.R. 1065

Status: Introduced by Reps. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) and Greg Landsman (D-OH) on Feb. 6, 2025

Co-sponsors: 108 (99 Democratic – 9 Republican)

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

Fact sheet

Federal Retirement Fairness Act - H.R. 1522

Status: Introduced by Reps. Gerry Connolly (D-VA), Nikki Budzinski (D-IL), David Valadao (R-CA), and Don Bacon (R-NE) on Feb. 24, 2025

Co-sponsors: 76 (67 Democratic – 9 Republican)

To amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that civilian service in a temporary position after December 31, 1988, may be creditable service under the Federal Employees Retirement System, and for other purposes.

Fact sheet

USPS Shipping Equity Act - H.R. 3011

Status: Introduced by Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-WA) on April 24, 2025

Co-sponsors: 1 (1 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

House resolution

Anti-privatization resolution - H. Res. 70

Status: Introduced by Reps. Stephen Lynch (D-MA) and Nick LaLota (R-NY) on Jan. 28, 2025

Co-sponsors: 194 (182 Democratic – 12 Republican)

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should take all appropriate measures to ensure that the United States Postal Service remains an independent establishment of the Federal Government and is not subject to privatization.

Fact sheet

Senate bill

Protect Our Letter Carriers Act - S. 463

Status: Introduced by Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Josh Hawley (R-MO) on Feb. 6, 2025

Co-sponsors: 3 (2 Democratic – 1 Republican)

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

Fact sheet

Senate resolution

Anti-privatization resolution - S. Res. 147

Status: Introduced by Sens. Gary Peters (D-MI), Dan Sullivan (R-AK), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Susan Collins (R-ME), Thom Tillis (R-NC) and Maggie Hassan (D-NH) on March 28, 2025

Co-sponsors: 7 (4 Democratic – 3 Republican)

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should take all appropriate measures to ensure that the United States Postal Service remains an independent establishment of the Federal Government and is not subject to privatization.

Fact sheet