



GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

November 12, 2024

House passes Social Security Fairness Act

Today, in a 327-75 vote, the House passed the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 82), legislation that would repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO). The WEP and GPO are parts of Social Security law that reduce or sometimes eliminate earned benefits for Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) retirees, including letter carriers.

The vote came after a decades long fight to repeal these unjust provisions. The bill, led by Reps. Garrett Graves (R-LA) and Abigail Spanberger (D-VA) has had broad bipartisan support for years, but leadership from both parties have been hesitant to bring the bill to the floor. The full vote details are available [here](#).

“This is a major win for letter carriers and other federal annuitants who have been victimized by the WEP and GPO for decades,” NALC President Brian L. Renfroe said.

“We appreciate Reps. Graves and Spanberger’s steadfast leadership and commitment to finally get this bill to the floor, and we commend every House member who voted “yes” on this critical bill.

“With House passage, we are one step closer to finally righting this wrong that impacts so many CSRS retirees. We must keep up the momentum. NALC calls on the Senate to pass the Social Security Fairness Act as soon as possible and send it to the president’s desk.

“I want to thank every NALC member who lobbied their representative to support H.R. 82. I urge them to keep up the work and contact their senators. It’s time to finish the job.”

November 11, 2024

H.R. 82 vote scheduled; ask your representative to vote yes

After an unexpected and unprecedented procedural move related to the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 82) while Congress was in recess, the bill remains on track to receive a vote on the House floor under suspension on Tuesday, Nov. 12. Under suspension, the bill needs a two-thirds majority vote to pass.

While the bill has 330 cosponsors, we need to ensure **EVERY COSPONSOR** votes **yes** to sustain the two-thirds majority needed for House passage. Every vote is critical, and it is important to ask your representative to vote yes on this priority legislation.

Take Action

[Click here](#) to contact your representative through NALC’s Legislative Action Center, or **call (202) 224-3121**.

More on H.R. 82

H.R. 82/S. 597 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. [Click here](#) for NALC’s fact sheet.

House subcommittee holds hearing on USPS election readiness

Sep 26, 2024

Today, the House Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government held an oversight hearing on the Postal Service’s role and readiness in the upcoming election.

In his opening remarks, Chairman Dave Joyce (R-OH) explained that the goal of the hearing was to reassure Americans that the Postal Service is completely prepared for election season. “Any frustrations with Postal Service leadership should not be perceived to extend to the hardworking Postal Service workers and letter carriers across the country. These individuals work long hours to bring needed deliveries to our neighbors, connect our communities, and ensure the continued flow of commerce,” he said.

Postmaster General Louis DeJoy testified at the hearing. In his opening statement, DeJoy referenced the Postal Service’s successful history with mail-in ballots and the extensive preparations as reasons the agency was ready for election season.

Six subcommittee members attended the hearing and questioned DeJoy: Chairman Joyce, Reps. Matt Cartwright (D-PA), Ashley Hinson (R-IA), Mark Pocan (D-WI), Jerry Carl (R-AL) and Chuck Edwards (R-NC). Rep. Andrew Clyde (R-GA) submitted an official question for the record.

Questions focused on what measures are being implemented to ensure that ballots are safely and securely delivered. In response, DeJoy mentioned the Expanded Election Mail Task Force, which was created at NALC's request in 2020 and which meets year-round to ensure election readiness, as well as employee training on election mail processes. Some members used their time to discuss unrelated issues, including service or facility concerns in their districts.

Following the hearing, NALC President Brian L. Renfroe issued the following statement:

“All Americans can rest assured that our nation’s letter carriers can—and will—carry out their duties this election with the same integrity, responsibility and dedication to mission they exhibit as they deliver for the American people during election season and every other day.

“They will, in short, do what letter carriers have done ever since the founding of the country, as they fulfill their role enshrined in the Constitution and in the oath they take. To suggest that they would do anything less is to demean America’s postal employees—many of whom, it’s worth noting, are wearing their second uniform in service to this nation.

“No matter the challenges—inclement weather, natural catastrophe, a pandemic or anything else—we overcome any obstacles and do our job.”

[Click here](#) for NALC’s fact sheet on vote by mail.

H.R. 82 discharge petition reaches 218 signers

Sep 19, 2024

Today, the discharge petition for the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 82) reached 218 signers, an important step to bring the legislation to the House floor for a vote.

The milestone comes on the same day NALC participated in a press conference on Capitol Hill to raise awareness about the issue. **NALC President Brian L. Renfroe spoke** at the event which was cohosted by the leads of the bill, Reps. Abigail Spanberger (D-VA) and Garrett Graves (R-LA).



While the discharge petition is closed after reaching 218 signatures, members can still cosponsor the bill. H.R. 82 is now the most cosponsored bill in Congress, with 327 cosponsors.

Now, the petition will sit on the House calendar for seven legislative days. Tomorrow, Sept. 20, will count as the first legislative day. After that period, Spanberger and Graves, the filers of the discharge petition, can request a full House vote. According to House rules, after that request, a vote will be scheduled within two legislative days.

With much in flux next week, including the House's schedule and efforts to pass a continuing resolution to fund the government, it is unclear when the two lawmakers will choose to call for a vote after the allotted time.

NALC will continue closely monitoring this legislation and will inform members when it is called for a vote.

More on the Social Security Fairness Act

H.R. 82/S. 597 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. [Click here](#) for NALC's fact sheet.



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: 134 (112 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: Introduced by Reps. Garrett Graves (R-LA) and Abigail Spanberger (D-VA) on Jan. 9, 2023

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 Sandford Bishop (D-GA) on May 9, 2023

Co-sponsors: 55 (36 Democratic – 19 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