

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Legislative Updates

Paid family and medical leave bill introduced in Senate

Apr 15, 2021

Senator Brian Schatz (D-HI) introduced The Comprehensive Paid Leave for Federal Employees Act ([S. 1158](#)) in the Senate today. The bill, which mirrors [H.R. 564](#) introduced by Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) in the House in January, would provide up to 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave for federal employees, including Postal Service employees. A similar bill previously passed in the House during the 116th Congress, but the Senate narrowed the legislation to 12 weeks of paid parental leave, The Federal Employee Paid Leave Act, which ultimately did not include USPS employees.

Employees could use this paid leave for personal illness, caring for a family member, or time off work needed for a family member leaving or returning from active military duty. Currently, federal employees are entitled to 12 weeks of leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) for such reasons, but it is not guaranteed paid leave.

“The current public health crisis has shown us why it’s so important to have strong paid leave policies, but our current laws are still forcing federal workers to make the impossible choice between caring for their families and keeping their jobs,” said Senator Schatz in a statement. “Our bill will provide federal workers with 12 weeks of paid leave, giving them the time they need to take care of their own health and their loved ones.”

NALC will continue to monitor this legislation and will update letter carriers on any future actions.

Legislative Updates

White House Releases FY 2022 Budget Request Outline

Apr 09, 2021

The White House released its Fiscal Year 2022 (FY 2022) budget outline today. The budget proposal reflects the priorities of the administration but must be reviewed and approved by

members of Congress who control the budget and appropriations process. As is customary with presidential first-year budget requests, the current outline lacks certain specifics, and a more detailed budget request is expected later this spring.

Regarding the Postal Service, the outline reiterates the administration's priority of securing electric vehicles and specifically increasing "demand for American made, zero-emission vehicles through federal procurement." The budget request includes \$600 million for electric vehicles and the development of charging stations for 18 federal agencies and USPS.

Notably, in contrast to presidential budget requests over the past four years that have proposed reducing or eliminating retirement benefits, increasing employees' share of health benefits, and other changes to Postal Service operations, this first Biden administration budget includes no such cuts.

Overall, the budget outline includes more than \$1.5 trillion in discretionary spending for FY 2022. This includes \$769 billion in domestic spending, a 16% increase from FY 2021, and \$753 billion in defense spending, a 1.7% increase. The proposal focuses on funding medical research, education, housing, combating gun violence and climate change, and more. It focuses these efforts through increased funding to federal agencies including the Department of Housing and Urban Development (15% increase), the Department of Education (41% increase), the Department of Justice (5.3% increase), and others.

Later this spring, the White House will release a more detailed presidential budget request as Congress begins the budget and appropriations process. Check back for future updates.



NALC Priority Congressional Bills and Resolutions

Below are bills of note for NALC that have been introduced in the 117th Congress. This page will be updated regularly as bills are introduced.

House Bills

USPS Fairness Act - [H.R. 695](#)

Status: Introduced February 2, 2021 by Peter DeFazio (D-OR), Tom Reed (R-NY), Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) and Collin Allred (D-TX)

***Co-sponsors:** 265 (215 Democrats – 50 Republicans)*

To repeal the requirement that the United States Postal Service prepay future retirement benefits.

Social Security Fairness Act - [H.R. 82](#)

Status: Introduced January 4, 2021

***Co-sponsors:** 136 (100 Democrats – 36 Republicans)*

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

House Resolutions

House Resolution 109 ([H. Res. 109](#)) – Door Delivery

Status: Introduced by Reps. Stephanie Murphy (D-FL) and David Joyce (R-OH)

***Co-sponsors:** 108 (88 Democrats – 20 Republicans)*

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.

House Resolution 47 ([H. Res. 47](#)) – Anti-privatization

Status: Introduced by Reps. Stephen Lynch (D-MA) and Rodney Davis (R-IL)

***Co-sponsors:** 145 (129 Democrats – 16 Republicans)*

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.

House Resolution 114 ([H. Res. 114](#)) - Six-Day Delivery

Status: Introduced by Rep. Gerald Connolly (D-VA)

***Co-sponsors:** 99 (55 Democrats – 44 Republicans)*

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Postal Service should take all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of its 6-day mail delivery service.

House Resolution 119 ([H. Res. 119](#)) - Service Standards

Status: Introduced by Rep. David McKinley (R-WV)

***Co-sponsors:** 72 (59 Democrats – 13 Republicans)*

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Postal Service should take all appropriate measures to restore service standards in effect as of July 1, 2012.

Senate Bills

USPS Fairness Act - [S. 145](#)

Status: Introduced by Sen. Steve Daines (R-MT) and Brian Schatz (D-HI)

***Co-sponsors:** 10 (5 Democrats – 5 Republicans)*

To repeal the requirement that the United States Postal Service prepay future retirement benefits.