



## WARLCA Legislative Update

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Hello all WARLCA members. This newsletter update is to help keep you informed of the legislative issues currently affecting you and your fellow rural co-workers. I will also show you how, with just a phone call or email, you too can help ensure that your wages, benefits and future job security are supported and maintained through the efforts of your Congressional Representatives on Capitol Hill.

Make no mistake about it, your jobs, wages and benefits are all under attack by private interest groups, delivery competitors, and anti-labor Congressional voting blocs. Even the current Administration is proposing to privatize the Postal Service, which would negatively impact hundreds of thousands of postal workers and their families, including yours.

Please read the following short descriptions about the issues currently affecting us in Congress and then phone or email your Senators and Representatives to request that they support our causes on these important issues before Congress.

### Administration Releases Proposal to Privatize the Postal Service

On June 21, 2018, the Administration released a wide-ranging proposal to overhaul the federal government. Included in the government overhaul is a proposal to privatize the United States Postal Service. The Administration states their "proposal would restructure the United States Postal System to return it to a sustainable business model or prepare it for future conversion from a Government Agency into a privately-held corporation."

The privatization proposal recommends significant cuts to service, employee benefits, and labor that would help a privately-held Postal Service better manage expenses; "A private postal operator that delivers mail fewer days per week and to more central locations (not door delivery) would operate at substantially lower costs. A private entity would also have greater ability to adjust product pricing in response to changes in demand or operating costs. Freeing USPS to more fully negotiate pay and benefits rather than prescribing participation in costly Federal personnel benefits programs and allowing it to follow private sector practices in compensation and labor relations, could further reduce costs."

On April 12, President Trump signed an Executive Order to review the sustainability and viability of the Postal Service and make legislative recommendations. When the NRLCA met with members of the Task Force, the idea of privatization never came up. The Task Force's report is scheduled to be released on August 10. With release of this most recent recommendation to privatize the Postal Service, we have a good idea on what the Task Force is going to recommend.

The NRLCA fully opposes privatizing the Postal Service, and will continue to work with members of Congress on both sides of the aisle to pass meaningful postal reform legislation, and make sure this privatization proposal to dismantle an American institution fails.

You can view the Administration's Reform Plan to Reorganization Recommendations here:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Government-Reform-and-Reorg-Plan.pdf>

**Please contact your members of Congress NOW and ask them to oppose privatization of the US Postal Service.**

### H.Res. 15: Preserving 6-day Mail Delivery

Delivering mail six days a week remains a critical competitive advantage for the USPS, especially in rural areas where small businesses and livelihoods are dependent on 6-day mail delivery. Eliminating 6-day mail delivery would cut as many as 50,000 rural letter carrier jobs. The NRLCA believes it is essential for Congress to continue to support 6-day mail delivery to ensure universal service for American businesses and households.

**Please contact your Representative NOW and ask them to support H.Res. 15: Preserving 6-day Mail Delivery.**

### H.Res. 28: Maintaining Door-to-Door Delivery

H.Res.28 expresses "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." The same resolution in the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress, which was also numbered H.Res. 28, had 228 bipartisan co-sponsors.

**Please contact your Representative NOW and ask them to support H.Res. 28: Maintaining Door-to-Door Delivery.**

### H.Res. 31: Maintaining Service Standards

Currently there are two bills in Congress, HR 756 and S 2629, which address the recent change in service standards. These changes are the result of a 2015 Postal Service plan which reduced service standards by closing facilities and nearly eliminating all overnight mail delivery. The NRLCA supports H.Res. 31, which would restore previous service standards for customers.

**Please contact your Representative NOW and ask them to support H.Res. 31: Maintaining Service Standards.**

### H.R. 5389: Federal Retirement Fairness Act of 2018

According to OPM, this bill currently as drafted does not apply to postal employees, including rural carriers! If amended to include postal workers, H.R. 5389 will give RCAs who achieve career status as well as regular carriers the ability to have their years of part-time service credited towards retirement. In other words, you could buy back your time as a leave replacement. The NRLCA believes this could be beneficial in the retention rate of new employees.

**Please contact your Representative NOW and ask them to support and amend H.R. 5389: Federal Retirement Fairness Act of 2018 to include postal employees.**

Use this link to find your Congressional Representative:  
<https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>

Go to <https://www.senate.gov> for your Senators' contact info.

Please ask your friends and family members to contact their Senators and Representatives to support these issues too!