



GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

February 06, 2025

Congress reintroduces bipartisan Protect Our Letter Carriers Act

Today, bipartisan lawmakers in the House and Senate reintroduced the Protect Our Letter Carriers Act (POLCA) ([H.R. 1065/S.463](#)). Reps. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) and Greg Landsman (D-OH) introduced the House version, and Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Josh Hawley (R-MO) co-led the Senate version.

The bills are identical to the House and Senate versions introduced last Congress and include three measures to deter the increasing crimes and assaults committed against letter carriers on the job:

- \$7 billion in funding (appropriated over five years) to replace and modernize postal infrastructure that criminals often seek out.
- Designation for an assistant district attorney in each judicial district to prioritize cases involving an assault against a letter carrier in a timely manner.
- Standardizing sentencing guidelines for those who are found guilty of committing these crimes.

While the Postal Service has started to roll out modernized technology in certain areas and the prosecution rates for these crimes have increased some, crimes against letter carriers continue to persist at an alarming rate, and this bill is the next step to stop these crimes from happening.

Between 2019 and 2023 (the most recent data available), the number of serious crimes against postal employees nearly doubled. In 2023, postal inspectors opened 1,367 cases, 542 assaults, 628 robberies, and 197 burglaries, against postal employees in almost 500 metropolitan areas. Over two-thirds of these attacks involve a firearm or other weapon. Tragically, five letter carriers have been murdered while dutifully doing their jobs since 2022.

“NALC appreciates Rep. Fitzpatrick, Rep. Landsman, Sen. Gillibrand, and Sen Hawley’s continued leadership on this critical issue that is so important to letter carriers and every community we serve,” NALC President Brian L. Renfroe said.

“Enough is enough. Like all Americans, letter carriers have the right to go to work, do their jobs, and return home unharmed. It’s time for Congress to prioritize what’s important and pass this bill, and we are going to fight like hell to get it done.”

Take action

Click [here](#) to ask your members of Congress to co-sponsor H.R. 1065/S. 463.
Click [here](#) for our fact sheet.

January 31, 2025

Social Security Fairness Act implementation information

The Social Security Administration (SSA) has created a [web page](#) for updates and frequently asked questions regarding the implementation of the Social Security Fairness Act, which was signed into law on Jan. 5.

The law requires the SSA to adjust benefits for more than 3 million people affected by the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO). Under the law, December 2023 was the last month that the WEP and GPO applied.

In the latest update, the agency said it expects it could take more than a year to adjust benefits and pay all retroactive benefits. Funding, staffing shortages, and an ongoing hiring freeze are all factors in the implementation process.

The web page also advised that the SSA’s national 800-number has an automated message about the law’s application. Waiting to speak with a representative will not provide further information at this time. Thousands of daily callers continue to wait for a representative, ultimately slowing down workflow and implementation efforts.

Affected retirees can [subscribe here](#) to receive the latest updates from the SSA regarding implementation.

NALC will keep letter carriers updated as more information is available.

January 05, 2025

Social Security Fairness Act signed into law by President Biden; WEP and GPO repealed

Today, President Biden signed the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 82) into law, delivering a hard-fought victory for letter carriers and public servants across the nation. The legislation, which was overwhelmingly passed by the Senate on Dec. 20 and the House on Nov. 12, will ensure that affected Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) retirees no longer face unfair reductions in their Social Security benefits.

“The passage of the Social Security Fairness Act is a monumental win for retired letter carriers and other public servants, ensuring they receive the full Social Security benefits they’ve earned and deserve,” NALC President Brian L. Renfroe said. “We extend our deepest gratitude to the members of the House and Senate, and especially to the NALC members who fought tirelessly to make this law a reality.”

The Social Security Fairness Act repeals the WEP and GPO provisions in Social Security law that previously unfairly reduced or eliminated Social Security benefits for certain CSRS federal annuitants, including letter carriers.

As he prepared to sign the bill into law, President Biden thanked labor leaders and reflected, “Today is a victory for the dignity of work and the dignity of workers.”

With this landmark legislation now signed into law, public servants who have dedicated their careers to serving the country will no longer face unjust financial penalties, ensuring they receive the full Social Security benefits they have earned.

NALC will be in touch with more information regarding the enactment and timing of these changes for affected members.

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](https://www.nalc.org/action) to ask your senators to bring H.R. 82 to the floor for a vote.

More on H.R. 82

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PRIORITY BILLS & RESOLUTIONS

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: 1 (1 Democratic – 0 Republican)

To facilitate the implementation of security measures undertaken by the United States Postal Service, 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: 97 (92 Democratic – 5 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: 1 (0 Democratic – 1 Republican)

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

Fact sheet