



# GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

February 26, 2025

## Social Security Fairness Act implementation update

Yesterday, the Social Security Administration (SSA) announced that starting this week (Feb. 24, 2025), the agency is beginning to pay retroactive benefits and will increase monthly benefit payments to people who were affected by the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO).

Beneficiaries who are owed retroactive benefits will receive a one-time retroactive payment. This payment will date back to January 2024, the month when WEP and GPO no longer applied.

Social Security benefits are paid one month behind, so most affected beneficiaries will begin receiving their new monthly benefit amount in April 2025 (for their March 2025 benefit).

The agency has expedited payments through automation but cautioned that complex cases cannot be processed automatically and will require additional time.

Affected beneficiaries are urged to wait until April to inquire about the status of their retroactive payment since these payments will be processed incrementally throughout March.

For more information, please visit SSA's Social Security Fairness Act [web page](#).

February 25, 2025

## Feb. 26 Day of Action! Tell the White House: Hands Off the Postal Service

Following last week's reports of a planned executive order to dismantle the Postal Service, the threats against our jobs, universal service, and a self-sufficient, independent USPS are real.

While the White House has yet to release an executive order regarding the Postal Service, the threat is looming.

On Monday, hundreds of NALC members, union leaders, and other union members rallied in Washington, DC, against these potential efforts.

Together, we must continue sending a loud and clear message: Hands off the Postal Service!

Join us for NALC's Wednesday, Feb. 26 Day of Action as we tell the White House "hell no!" to dismantling the Postal Service.

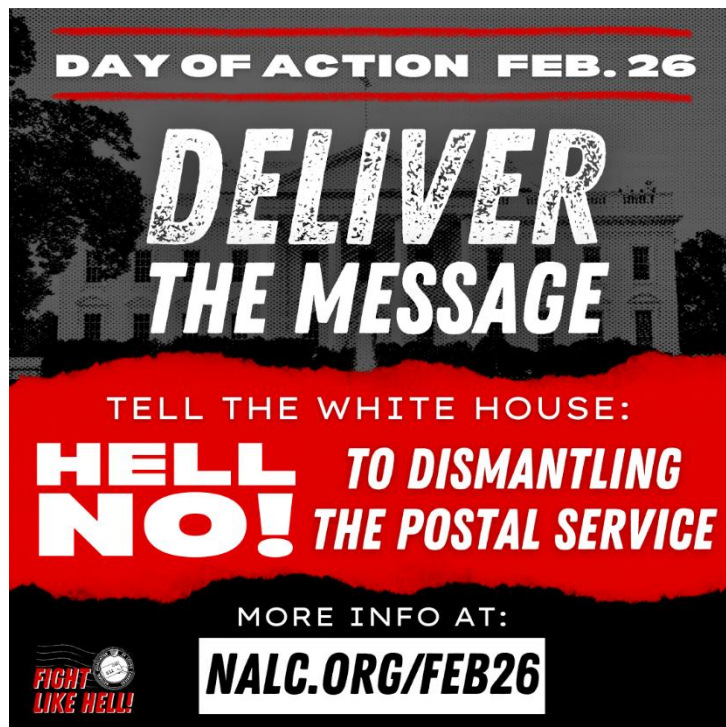
**Click here** to contact the White House.

**Questions? Follow these steps.**

1. [Click here](#).
2. Complete the form.
3. Add a brief message or copy and paste the sample language below into the comment box (4,000 characters max).
4. Click "Submit."

### Sample language

I am a proud letter carrier employed by the United States Postal Service. Any effort to dismantle or privatize USPS is a threat to my job, the jobs of all 640,000 postal employees (73,000 of whom are veterans), the 51.5 million rural addresses who rely on our service, and our nation's Constitution. USPS isn't funded by taxpayer dollars, and for the sake of



every American who depends on the Postal Service, it should remain a self-sufficient independent agency. Hands off USPS!

Feb 25, 2025

## Ask your members of Congress to co-sponsor NALC's legislative priorities

NALC has several legislative priorities this Congress, and it is important to contact your members of Congress to ask them to co-sponsor these critical pieces of legislation.

**If a member of Congress wants to support letter careers, co-sponsoring these priorities is the best way to do so.** Please visit [nalc.org/action](https://nalc.org/action) to ask them to co-sponsor the following:

- Federal Retirement Fairness Act (H.R. 1522)
- Anti-privatization resolution (H.Res. 70)
- Protect Our Letter Carriers Act (H.R. 1065/S. 463)

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.



## 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: 37 (31 Democratic – 6 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: 34 (29 Democratic – 5 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**

## 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: 147 (140 Democratic – 7 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**