



GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

November 23, 2024

NALC statement on Rep. Lori Chavez-DeRemer for labor secretary

NALC President Brian L. Renfroe released the following statement regarding President-elect Donald Trump's intent to nominate Rep. Lori Chavez-DeRemer (R-OR) to serve as secretary of the Department of Labor (DOL).

“Rep. Chavez-DeRemer is an excellent choice to serve in this pivotal role. In her brief time serving in Congress, she has been a strong ally to letter carriers and organized labor.

“She is a cosponsor of the Protect Our Letter Carriers Act, the Federal Retirement Fairness Act and voted to pass the Social Security Fairness Act earlier this month. She is also a cosponsor of the PRO Act and the Public Service Freedom to Negotiate Act. Her record proves that she values worker safety, retirement fairness, and unions.

“Leadership at DOL is pivotal in safeguarding working conditions, such as heat safety and the Office of Worker Compensation (OWCP), which injured letter carriers rely on. We cannot think of a better person to lead in these critical efforts.

“NALC appreciates President-elect Trump's choice, congratulates Rep. Chavez-DeRemer and looks forward to her swift confirmation in order to continue our strong working relationship with her to protect letter carriers.”

Rep. Chavez-DeRemer is serving in her first term in Congress. She recently lost a

tight race to Democratic challenger Janelle Bynum. She previously served two terms as mayor of Happy Valley, OR.

November 15, 2024

NALC calls on Senate to pass Social Security Fairness Act

NALC President Brian L. Renfroe released the following statement:

On behalf of the 280,000 members of NALC, I am calling on the Senate to pass the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 82). Following Tuesday's victory when the House voted overwhelmingly to pass H.R. 82, it is time for the Senate to act and consider this legislation as soon as possible.

NALC proudly represents 90,000 retired letter carriers from every state in the nation, many of whom are victimized by the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset. These retirees spent their working lives serving their communities, and it is unconscionable that some of them are not receiving the full Social Security benefits that they earned and were promised.

Passing the Social Security Fairness Act in the Senate is NALC's top legislative priority in the remaining weeks of the 118th Congress. The Senate companion bill has 62 bipartisan cosponsors, more than enough for passage, and I am calling on the Senate to vote on it as soon as possible.

I urge every senator to prioritize this issue, support letter carriers, and finally repeal the WEP and GPO by passing the Social Security Fairness Act.

Senate committee holds hearing on USPS BOG nominees

Nov 14, 2024

Today, the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs (HSGAC) held a hearing on USPS Board of Governors (BOG) nominations. There are four upcoming vacancies on the BOG, two Republican and two Democratic. HSGAC considered only three nominations: William Zollars and Gordon Hartogensis, both Republican nominees, and Val Demings, a Democratic nominee. Unfortunately, the second Democratic nominee, former Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh, removed himself from consideration.

Zollars previously served on the BOG in a term that expired in 2022. He is the former Chairman/President/CEO of Yellow Transportation, Inc., a freight and shipping company. Prior to that, he served as a senior vice president of Ryder Integrated Logistics and as general manager and vice president of the Midwestern region of Eastman Kodak. He also served on the boards of Cerner, ProLogis, CIGNA and the National Association of Manufacturers.

Hartogensis started his career on Wall Street. In 1993, he built a supply chain and logistics startup, Petrolsoft Corporation, that was later acquired by Aspen Technology, where he served in a leadership role until 2002. He then founded a customer relationship management software company, Auric Technology, which was sold to Telnorm in 2011. He has since served as an investor and advisor to several technology startups in cybersecurity, immunotherapy, streaming video, fintech, and artificial intelligence. Most recently, he served as the Director of Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation from 2019-2024.

Demings is a former member of the House of Representatives and unsuccessfully ran for a Florida seat in the Senate in 2022. Prior to her work as an elected official, Demings served as a social worker and police officer. In 2007, she was appointed chief of the Orlando Police Department, where she served until 2011.

While HSGAC is expected to advance these three nominations as early as next week, NALC does not support their confirmations at this time.

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 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: 137 (115 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: PASSED with a 327-75 vote on Nov. 12

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: 56 (36 Democratic – 20 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