

American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO

Mark Dimondstein, President
Judy Beard, Legislative & Political Director



LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

APWU STRONGLY OPPOSES USPS PRIVATIZATION

Many in the current administration are saying privatization is a quick fix to the problems facing USPS. Selling the Postal Service to the highest bidder would not only lead to a reduction in service and higher postage rates, it would place postal workers' health insurance, retirement benefits, collective bargaining rights, salaries, and jobs in jeopardy. While we know resolutions are not binding, nor law, these resolutions express the strong sense of Congress that the USPS must stay a public service, as intended by the Constitution.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 70 AND SENATE RESOLUTION 147

Lead Cosponsors: Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-MA-08), Rep. Nick LaLota (R-NY-01), Sen. Gary Peters (D-MI) and Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-AK)

These resolutions, introduced in the House on January 28, 2025 and the Senate on March 27, 2025, express the House and Senate's support for taking all appropriate measures to ensure that the Postal Service is not subject to privatization.

Specifically, the resolutions read as follows:

Expressing the sense of the [House or Senate] 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.

Privatization would mean the end of our publicly owned and operated USPS, to be replaced in part, or whole, by private corporations interested only in lining their own pockets.

This would also mean the potential elimination of our jobs and our negotiated benefits. Further, it jeopardizes the future of our hard-earned retirement and healthcare benefits.

The establishment of post offices is enshrined in the U.S. Constitution and by law, USPS must provide service to all parts of the nation. Privatizing the Postal Service and eliminating this universal service mandate will have a very real and very negative impact on those who depend on affordable and reliable mail delivery. Privatization would drive up postage rates and lead to reduced service, especially to rural America.

Postal workers and our unions will join with the public to fight for the vibrant, independent, and public Postal Service we all deserve.

Call Our Legislative Hotline at 1-844-402-1001 and Urge Your Members of Congress to Protect Our Public Postal Service by Supporting H.Res. 70 and S. Res. 147

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

APWU SUPPORTS ON-TIME RETIREMENT FOR ALL

Postal workers who begin their postal career as temporary employees are currently not allowed to make contributions to their retirement benefits until they become USPS career employees. This bill, if signed into law, would correct this injustice by providing career employees the opportunity to make up contributions to their retirement benefits and earn credit for the time they worked as a temporary postal employee. This will allow these employees to retire on time with their full, hard-earned retirement benefits.

THE FEDERAL RETIREMENT FAIRNESS ACT (H.R. 1522)

Lead Cosponsors: Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-VA-11), Rep. David Valadao (R-CA-22), Rep. Nikki Budzinski (D-IL-13) and Rep. Don Bacon (R-NE-02)

This bill, reintroduced in the House on February 24, 2025, would allow temporary postal and federal employees who are promoted to career positions the option of “buying back” the time that they worked as a non-career employee to use toward their retirement.

Temporary postal employees are non-career employees, such as PSEs, transitional employees, and casuals, who are unable to make contributions to their retirement benefits until they become USPS career employees.

Prior to 1989, postal workers were allowed to make retroactive “catch up” contributions to their retirement benefits, after they made career status, for all the time they worked as a temporary employee. Unfortunately, the authority to make retroactive payments expired on January 1, 1989.

Under the proposed “buy back,” eligible postal workers would make a deposit equal to the amount that would have been contributed to their retirement benefits, had they been career employees. The calculation is determined by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM).

This legislation would help postal and federal employees better prepare for their retirement. It would affect more than 100,000 APWU members who have converted from temporary to career positions.



Contact the APWU Legislative and Political Department at (202) 842-4211 for more information

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APWU OPPOSES ANTI-WORKER, ANTI-POSTAL BILLS

APWU has been tracking many new bills that would negatively impact working families if passed by Congress and signed into law. Below are two of the most concerning bills since they impact postal workers and the United States Postal Service directly:

Bill Information	Why We Oppose This Bill
Paycheck Protection Act (H.R. 2174)	This bill would restrict all federal and postal unions from deducting dues from employee paychecks. APWU members choose to become union members and pay their dues voluntarily, but this bill would restrict your freedom to spend your earnings as you choose. In addition to union dues, this bill restricts deductions for “fees or political contributions,” which may mean all other deductions, such as COPA and TSP.
Return to Sender Act (H.R. 1982, S. 913)	This bill would take back the \$3 billion given to the United States Postal Service for a new electric vehicle (EV) fleet and charging stations in the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022.

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APWU SOLIDARITY ACTIONS

APWU has also been tracking many new bills that would negatively impact federal unions if passed by Congress and signed into law. Below are four of the most concerning bills since they impact federal workers directly:

Bill Information	Why We Oppose This Bill
Protecting Taxpayers' Wallets Act (H.R. 1210, S.511)	This bill would charge federal unions for official time ("union time") and for the use of agency resources.
Preserving Presidential Management Authority Act (H.R. 2249)	This bill would give the president of the United States the ability to negotiate and/or terminate federal union collective bargaining agreements.
Federal Workforce Freedom Act (S. 1006)	This bill would ban federal employees from joining or organizing a union, as well as ban federal agencies from collectively bargaining with labor unions.
Federal Agency Sunset Commission Act (H.R. 489)	This bill would require Congress to vote regularly to reauthorize each agency or the agency would be abolished. This subjects every federal agency to partisan politics.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY FAIRNESS ACT (H.R. 82)

On January 5, 2025, the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 82) was signed into law. This legislation repeals the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO).

The WEP formula reduced the Social Security benefits of individuals with pensions from employers who were not required to withhold Social Security taxes, but still qualified for Social Security benefits through other employment. The GPO is similar to the WEP, but affected spousal and widow(er) benefits of those receiving pensions from employers who were not required to withhold Social Security taxes.

APWU members who retired under the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and qualify for Social Security benefits through other employment are affected by this law, as well as their spouses or widows. Those who retired under the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) are not affected by this law as they did not suffer any adverse impact to their Social Security benefits.

For the most up-to-date information on the implementation of the Social Security Fairness Act, please scan the QR code for frequently asked questions from the Social Security Administration (SSA) or visit ssa.gov



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HOW TO FIND YOUR FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

STEP 1

Go to the following webpage: tinyurl.com/5fn7rhn9
or use this QR code



STEP 2

Type in your current address
Hit "Submit"

The screenshot shows the Common Cause website interface. At the top, there are navigation links for 'Priorities', 'Our Impact', 'Take Action', and 'Donate'. The main heading is 'Find Your Representatives', followed by a sub-heading 'Who Are My Representatives?'. Below this, there is a text prompt 'Enter your full address below to get started:' and a text input field with the placeholder 'Enter your full address'. A red arrow points to the input field. A 'Submit' button is located below the input field. To the right of the text is an image of the US Capitol dome.

FOR STEP 3, SEE PAGE 7

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HOW TO FIND YOUR FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

STEP 3

You should see a similar page with your local, state, and federal representatives. Click on "See Details" for the representative you would like to contact.

View All	Federal	State	Local
<p>Muriel Bowser (D) Mayor of D.C. (202) 727-2643</p> <p>See Details →</p>	<p>Brian Schwalb (D) D.C. Attorney General (202) 727-3400</p> <p>See Details →</p>	<p>Phil Mendelson (D) D.C. City Council Chairman (202) 724-8032</p> <p>See Details →</p>	

STEP 4

The contact page should look similar to this.

Eleanor Holmes Norton (D)
Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives
(202) 225-8050
2136 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC, 20515
[Homepage](#)

SPONSORED BILLS | CONTRIBUTIONS

Sponsored Bills

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1967: To rename the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, and for other purposes.
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1954: To amend the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 to protect civil rights and otherwise prevent meaningful harm to third parties, and for other purposes.

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MEETING WITH YOUR MEMBER OF CONGRESS

HOW TO SCHEDULE A MEETING

NOTE: *If you'll be speaking on behalf of your state, local, or retiree chapter, seek authorization from your president. However, you can always speak for yourself in a personal capacity.*

To schedule a meeting:

1. Call the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121
2. Tell the automated operator the representative or senator you are trying to schedule a meeting with
3. Ask to speak with the office scheduler or a staffer that handles postal matters. If no one is available, ask for an email
4. In your email to the office:
 - Identify yourself as a constituent and provide your address
 - State your role within APWU
 - Give them a **short** summary of what you want to discuss
 - Make a specific request for a meeting (in person, by phone, or virtually)

Pro Tip: If you are unable to get a meeting, attend a public event with the elected official, such as a rally or town hall, and ask the member for a meeting directly.

HOW TO PREPARE

- Do your homework on the member
 - What are their policy positions?
 - What committees do they serve on?
- Know your issues
 - Obtain a copy of the APWU legislative priorities on our website
- Tailor your request to their position
- Think of a story that is personal, relevant, and took place in the district
- If you are going as a group, assign roles early and meet in advance
- Practice your pitch

THE MEETING

- In advance of the meeting, send a note to confirm the time and place, plus list the participant names, their titles, and street addresses (within the congressional district or state)
- Introduce yourselves and establish yourselves as leaders in your community
- Tell your relevant story and connect it to your issue
- Arrive early and remember to be polite

CLOSING THE DEAL

- Always make a direct ask
- Follow up with a thank you note:
 - Summarize your ask and explain how your ask is good policy
 - Thank them for their time
 - Reiterate any commitments made
 - Provide them with a digital copy of any legislative priority or other documents that support your ask

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COPA FAQs



American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO

1 **What does COPA stand for?**
Committee on Political Action

2 **What is COPA?**

APWU's federal political action committee (PAC), which raises money from APWU members and donates that money to campaigns and initiatives

3 **Who receives money from COPA?**

COPA money is given to pro-postal and pro-labor candidates seeking federal office, regardless of their political party

4 **Are union dues used to fund COPA?**

No, COPA is fully funded through voluntary contributions

5 **Why do we need COPA?**

COPA helps APWU advance our legislative priorities in Congress by supporting elected officials who support our issues

6 **How do I donate?**

Fill out a blue COPA donation form or contribute through APWU Members Only

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The Postal Service is **Under Threat** *Hands off!* our public Postal Service!

No matter how you voted in last year's election, no one voted to destroy the Postal Service. But the new administration plans to break up the Postal Service and sell it off to private corporations. Here's what you need to know and what you can do to help save the Postal Service.

FACT The Post Office is enshrined in the US Constitution and created by an act of Congress. The public Postal Service is part of the fundamental infrastructure of our great nation - binding us together.

FACT By law, the USPS is self funded. It operates through the sale of postage and postal services alone, without tax dollars.

FACT The Post Office will celebrate its 250th anniversary in July. Let's work together to bring another 250 years of strong, public postal services for every American!

FACT The USPS delivers to every address in the country—169 million addresses and 318 million pieces of mail each day—no matter who we are or where we live. In contrast, private delivery companies will only go where they can make a profit.

FACT If the Administration's plans to sell the USPS to corporations for private profit goes through, it will result in higher costs, reduced delivery days, and the end of universal delivery to every address in the country.

FACT The USPS is the low-cost anchor of the giant mail and package industry. The industry employs more than seven million people and generates more than \$1.2 trillion in economic activity. At a time of booming e-commerce, the public Postal Service is as necessary as ever.

FACT The United States Postal Service is consistently ranked among the most favorable and most trusted federal agencies.

FACT Postal privatization wouldn't just be the end of reliable mail delivery, it would destroy over 600,000 good union jobs. The USPS is also the country's largest civilian employer of veterans. Good jobs build good communities.

Support and protect your public Postal Service.
Sign our petition.

Scan the QR code or visit usmailnotforsale.org/petition

