



**National Association
of Letter Carriers**

BRIAN L. RENFROE President

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August 6, 2026

Dear Chairman Paul and Ranking Member Peters,

On behalf of the nearly 300,000 active and retired letter carriers represented by the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC), I write to urge you to approve the Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act (S. 3296) when the committee considers this bill.

Letter carriers' jobs are extremely physically demanding, and we work outside in all types of conditions. These factors heighten letter carriers' risk of injury on the job. In fact, postal employees account for nearly half of the claims filed with the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP) each year, and letter carriers file most of these claims. Letter carriers are injured more frequently than nearly all other federal government or private industry workers.

Unfortunately, in many parts of the country, injured letter carriers live in areas with a shortage of physicians willing to treat federal workers. The Department of Labor (DOL) is aware of this problem and has identified these areas as "provider deserts." Despite there being many nurse practitioners (NPs) and physician assistants/physician associates (PAs) in these areas who are willing to treat injured federal workers, the DOL does not accept medical reports or evidence from them for purposes of accepting and administering claims. This results in injured letter carriers driving hours from home for an appointment or waiting for months to receive treatment.

Even in metropolitan areas where there is not a shortage of physicians, letter carriers who suffer routine traumatic injuries such as slips, trips and falls, rolled ankles, and dog bites are usually sent to urgent care centers that are staffed by PAs and NPs and are rarely seen or treated by physicians. The proposed legislation would align OWCP policy with how the current U.S. healthcare system works.

When a letter carrier is injured on the job, it is important that they receive the care they need from the provider of their choice so they can get back to work as quickly and healthily as possible. Amending the Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA) through S. 3296 to allow NPs and PAs to treat these cases would support a stronger and healthier federal workforce.

Letter carriers are devoted public servants who provide an essential service that all Americans rely on. We are lifelines for seniors who need medications, ensure our customers receive paychecks and bills on time, safely and securely deliver tens of millions of ballots every election season, and deliver essential packages six—and sometimes seven—days a week.

Letter carriers keep our nation connected, and with your help, we must ensure that they have access to the care they need when they are injured on the job.

NALC strongly urges you to stand with letter carriers and the entire federal workforce and vote to advance S. 3296 when the committee considers the bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brian L. Renfroe", written in a cursive style.

Brian L. Renfroe
President
National Association of Letter Carriers