



# National Association of Letter Carriers

100 Indiana Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20001-2144  
202.393.4695  
www.nalc.org

Fredric V. Rolando, President

August 3, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-230, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-221, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy, and Leader Schumer:

On behalf of more than 200,000 letter carriers across this country that work every day to support a \$1.6 trillion mailing industry that employs nearly 7.0 million private sector workers, we respectfully request that you include financial relief for the Postal Service in the next Covid-19 relief package. Although the Postal Service has not needed taxpayer support in decades, it needs it now to survive this unprecedented crisis.

Letter carriers have been on the front lines of this pandemic delivering mail and essential items to American homes and businesses at peak levels. Although package revenues have temporarily surged, mail volume losses from the Covid-19 are likely to equal \$5 billion this year and at least \$10 billion next year. Additionally, operating costs have significantly increased due to Covid-19 and quarantine-related leave, retrofitting measures for 30,000 post offices and facilities and the cost of personal protective equipment and sanitizing supplies for its 600,000 employees.

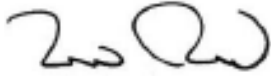
As the pandemic worsens, the deterioration of the economy makes the financial situation of the United States Postal Service (USPS) precarious at best. Last week's disturbing GDP report and the BLS's announcement that new claims for Unemployment Insurance have exceeded one million for twenty straight weeks indicates that the Postal Service's finances could worsen considerably after Congress adjourns for the election. In the absence of congressional action, the agency has begun to implement short-sighted and counterproductive service cuts around the country -- resulting in slower mail service, missed delivery days and disrupted services for American businesses and households.

In order to protect public health, promote economic recovery, and provide assurance that the Postal Service will be there for the American people and their businesses at this time of need, we once again call on Congress to intervene by providing an immediate emergency appropriation to the USPS of at least \$25 billion to cover the difference between postage revenues and total USPS expenses during this

crisis. We also urge Congress to strip the Federal Finance Bank's (FFB) of any discretion to impose operational changes and policy conditions on any of the Postal Service's existing borrowing authorities as well as the elimination of the annual limit on these authorities. Both of these provisions are contained in bipartisan legislation in both the House and Senate in the HEROES Act (H.R. 6800) and Postal Service Emergency Assistance Act (S. 4174). In addition, we urge you to take steps to prevent service delays and disruptions during the pandemic and to include postal employees among the front-line workers eligible for any hazard pay included in the relief legislation.

Just as Congress is taking steps to ensure that this country's schools, small businesses, hospitals and essential agencies can weather this difficult time, we must ensure that the U.S. Postal Service and its universal delivery network remains fully operational and financially healthy. Therefore, we urge you to include these measures in the next emergency legislative package.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fredric V. Rolando', written in a cursive style.

Fredric V. Rolando

President

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