



# News from Washington

## House passes WEP and GPO repeal; sends bill to Senate

**O**n Nov. 12, 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. Garret 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.

“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.

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 co-sponsors, more than enough for passage, and I am calling on the Senate to vote on it as soon as possible.

“I want to thank every NALC member who lobbied their representative to support H.R. 82. I urge them to keep



President Renfroe speaks at a September event on Capitol grounds calling for a vote on H.R. 82.

up the work and contact their senators. It’s time to finish the job.”

### Senate committee holds hearing on USPS BOG nominees

On Nov. 14, 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 the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation from 2019 to 2024.

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

While HSGAC favorably reported these three nominations to the full Senate on Nov. 20, NALC does not support their confirmations at this time. **PR**