



# News from Washington

## President Biden signs Social Security Fairness Act into law

**O**n Jan. 5, President Joe Biden signed the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 82) into law, delivering a hard-fought victory for letter carriers and public servants across the nation. The legislation, which was overwhelmingly passed by the Senate on Dec. 20 and the House on Nov. 12, will ensure that affected Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) retirees no longer face unfair reductions in their Social Security benefits.

“The passage of the Social Security Fairness Act is a monumental win for retired letter carriers and other public servants, ensuring they receive the full Social Security benefits they’ve earned and deserve,” NALC President Brian L. Renfroe said. “We extend our deepest gratitude to the members of the House and Senate, and especially to the NALC members who fought tirelessly to make this law a reality.”

The Social Security Fairness Act repeals the WEP and GPO provisions in Social Security law that previously unfairly reduced or eliminated Social Security benefits for certain CSRS federal annuitants, including letter carriers.

As he prepared to sign the bill into law, President Biden thanked labor leaders and reflected, saying, “Today is a victory for the dignity of work and the dignity of workers.”

With this landmark legislation now signed into law, public servants who have dedicated their careers to serving the country will no longer face unjust financial penalties, ensuring they receive the full Social Security benefits they have earned.

For more on NALC’s long fight to repeal WEP and GPO, see the previous issue of *The Postal Record*. NALC will be in touch with more information regarding the enactment and timing of these changes for affected members.



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### Anti-privatization resolution to be reintroduced in House, Senate

A bipartisan House and Senate resolution calling on Congress to take all appropriate measures to ensure that the Postal Service remains an independent establishment of the federal government, not subject to privatization, was set to be introduced as this magazine was going to print.

The resolution will be identical to the ones introduced in previous Congresses. In recent years, when privatization talks and threats were heightened, the resolution reached a bipartisan majority of co-sponsors in both chambers of Congress.

NALC members’ outreach and advocacy were key to reaching that bipartisan majority. Once again, to gain support for this priority resolution, letter carriers’ letters, emails, calls and district meetings will be key to increasing co-sponsors.

Check the “Government Affairs” section of [nalc.org](http://nalc.org) and NALC’s Legislative Action Center at [nalc.org/action](http://nalc.org/action) for updates.

### Protect Our Letter Carriers Act scheduled for reintroduction

As this magazine was going to print, final plans were being set for the reintroduction of the Protect Our Letter Carriers Act.

The bipartisan bill will again be led by Reps. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) and Greg

Landsman (D-OH) in the House and Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Josh Hawley (R-MO) in the Senate. Last Congress, the bill reached 138 co-sponsors in the House.

The bill will be identical to the previous version, including three important elements to deter the increasing crimes and assaults committed against letter carriers on the job:

- Funding to replace and modernize postal infrastructure that is often sought out by criminals.
- Designation for an assistant district attorney in each judicial district to prioritize in a timely manner cases involving an assault against a letter carrier.
- Increasing prosecution rates for those who are found guilty of committing these crimes.

While the Postal Service has started to roll out modernized technology in certain areas and the prosecution rates for these crimes have increased some, this bill is the next step to stop these crimes from happening and to send the message that an attack on a letter carrier is a federal crime with serious consequences.

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