

Pre-funding Repeal Bill Reintroduced in the House and Senate

On February 1, members of both the House of Representatives and the Senate re-introduced the bipartisan *USPS Fairness Act* (S. 145 and H.R. 695). This legislation would repeal, in full, the onerous pre-funding of future retiree health care benefits, which Congress required when it passed the *Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act* (PAEA) in 2006. This law forced the Postal Service to pre-fund its retiree health care benefits 75 years in advance, paying for retirement health care for individuals who had not been born yet, let alone enter the workforce.

The pre-funding mandate is accountable for 84 percent of the Postal Service's net losses since 2007 and is a constant threat to the financial sustainability of the Postal Service.

The APWU applauds members of Congress for their efforts to repeal this unfair mandate and place the Postal Service on solid financial footing with the *USPS Fairness Act*. The bill's introducing cosponsors are Representatives Peter DeFazio (D-OR-04), Tom Reed (R-NY-23), Carolyn B. Maloney (D-NY-12), Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA-01), and Colin Allred (D-TX-32) in the House and Senators Steve Daines (R-MT) and Brian Schatz (D-HI) in the Senate. At print time, there were already 231 cosponsors on the House bill.

The APWU fully supports the *USPS Fairness Act*. The pre-funding mandate has created a manufactured crisis that drains the Postal Service's funds, and limits its ability to make vital innovations and expand services.

"The bipartisan *USPS Fairness Act* is one of the first steps toward returning the Postal Service to

solid financial footing, and I urge Congress to quickly pass this critical legislation," said President Mark Dimondstein.

The *USPS Fairness Act* would return the Postal Service to the procedures in place prior to the PAEA, utilizing a pay-as-you-go method for retiree health benefits, the standard practice across federal agencies and private businesses. "Ending the pre-funding mandate gained immense support from both sides of the aisle in the last Congress," said Legislative & Political Director Judy Beard. "Now is the time to right the errors of the failed pre-funding policy, and allow USPS to remove this manufactured debt from its books."

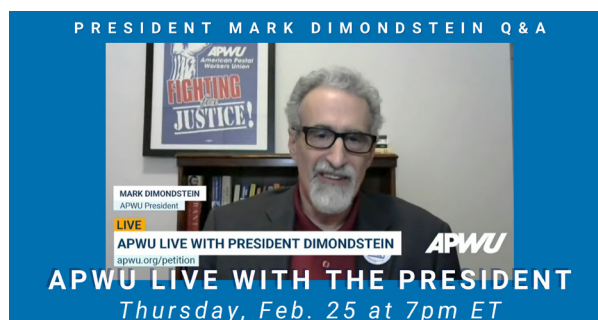
APWU Continues Push to Fill Postal Board Seats!

The APWU and our many allies have been urging the Biden-Harris administration to quickly nominate strong postal advocates to fill vacant seats on the Postal Board of Governors. Together, we've collected more than 200,000 petition signatures, urging the President to fill these seats with diverse, community-based members who are committed to vibrant, public and universal public postal services.

Strong nominees to the Board should fight for the Postal Service we all deserve. They should defend and expand postal services, not cut them. They should promote speedier delivery, not mail slow-downs and post office closures.

We will soon present the petitions to the Biden Administration. For more information, stay tuned to apwu.org.

Join the Next APWU Live on February 25



On February 25, join President Mark Dimondstein for the next APWU Live with the President event to hear about the status of our preparations for contract negotiations, our fight to prioritize postal workers in the national COVID-19 vaccine rollout plan, our Postal Board of Governors petition, the reintroduction of the *USPS Fairness Act*, and more. President Dimondstein will also answer questions from participants. The stream will be available at apwu.org, and our Facebook, YouTube and Twitter channels at 7pm ET. For more information and to pre-register, go to apwu.org/live.