

Anti-Privatization Resolution Gains Majority Support in Senate

Members of the United States Senate have joined members of the House of Representatives in saying, “Don’t Sell Our Public Postal Service”.

On June 4, S. Res 99, introduced by Gary Peters (D-MI), gained its 51st cosponsor. The resolution expresses that Congress should take all appropriate measures to ensure the United States Postal Service remains an independent establishment of the Federal Government and is not subject to privatization.

H. Res 33, the companion resolution in the House, gained majority support in April. The resolution, introduced by Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-MA-8), now has 251 co-sponsors.

“Postal Workers have led this fight with the support of the AFL-CIO, many labor unions and A Grand Alliance to Save Our Postal Service. We appreciate the bipartisan support Congress has given us and will work to educate even more members of Congress about

this ongoing fight,” said Legislative and Political Director Judy Beard. “This sends a strong message to Wall Streeters and the White House that the U.S. Mail Is Not For Sale.”

“The majority, bipartisan support for the resolutions in both chambers shows just how popular the public Postal Service is, regardless of political affiliation,” said President Mark Dimondstein. “The desire to maintain universal service to everyone in the country, regardless of income or zip-code, transcends party lines.”

APWU members are encouraged to contact their representatives to discuss the value of public, universal postal services, and ask them to become a co-sponsor; or thank them for their support if they have already signed on to their respective resolution. To connect to your member’s office, call 844-402-1001.

For more updates on the fight against the White House’s plan to privatize the Postal Service, visit usmailnotforsale.org.

Contract Update: Mediation Ending

On June 3, President Mark Dimondstein and Industrial Relations Director Vance Zimmerman reported to the APWU National Executive Council (NEC) that the contract mediator stated that the APWU and the USPS were too far apart, and further discussions would not lead to a new collective bargaining agreement. The statement effectively ends the mediation.

“We invoked mediation to make sure we pursued every avenue to reach a good contract for the membership,” President Dimondstein said.

On the June call, the NEC was provided a full update about the mediation and negotiation process, and given the opportunity to question President Dimondstein (lead negotiator) and Director Zimmerman (chief spokesman).

The Mediation started with a meeting between the mediator appointed by the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS) and members of the 2018 National Negotiating Committee, including the Industrial Relations Director, Executive Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer and Clerk, Maintenance, and MVS Craft Directors. Assistant Craft Directors were also invited to participate. Anyone who could

not physically attend the meeting could participate via teleconference.

The process continued with in-depth joint meetings with the mediator and chief spokespersons of both the USPS and the APWU. Following day-long meetings with the chief spokespersons, the individual Craft Directors and the Assistant Directors met in separate day-long sessions with their USPS counterparts and the mediator.

After a series of these meetings, the mediator declared the parties were too far apart.

“While we were hopeful that mediation would be successful, we have been vigorously preparing for interest arbitration,” said Director Zimmerman. “We are working hard to develop our case and preparing evidence to support our demands.”

The next stage of the process is for the USPS and the APWU to jointly select an interest arbitrator to chair the three-member panel. This panel will hear the case for the new contract. Once the arbitrator is selected and appointed, the parties will ask for dates for to begin arbitration hearings.