



American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO

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LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

117th CONGRESS

APWU Supports the USPS Fairness Act

For over a decade, the United States Postal Service has been plagued with the onerous burden of prefunding its retiree health care benefits, mandated by the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act (PAEA) of 2006. The Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) found that the mandate requires the Postal Service to prefund its retiree health care benefits more than 50 years in advance, paying for retirement health care for individuals who have not entered the workforce and even for those who have not been born yet.

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 Postal Service has defaulted on its prefunding payments since 2012. No other federal agency or private sector business prefunds its retirement benefits.

The uncertainty inherent in satisfying the PAEA prefunding mandate is creating real instability in the Postal Service’s operations and prevents investment in infrastructure. The postal employees we represent see the consequences of this instability in their work, their workplaces, and in the service they provide the public.



The USPS Fairness Act (S. 145 and H.R. 695)

Recognizing the problem prefunding creates, the USPS Fairness Act enjoyed overwhelming bi-partisan support in the last Congress and passed the House with 309 votes; however, it did not make it to the Senate floor. As such, the USPS Fairness Act has been reintroduced for the 117th Congress in both chambers as S. 145 and H.R. 695.

S. 145

Senators Steve Daines (R-MT) and Brian Schatz (D-HI) introduced the Senate version of the USPS Fairness Act, S. 145 on February 1st.

H.R. 695

The House version of the USPS Fairness Act, H.R. 695, was introduced on February 2nd by Representatives Peter DeFazio (D-OR-04) and Tom Reed (R-NY-23), along with over 220 original co-sponsors.

If signed into law, this legislation would fully repeal the prefunding mandate, reverting back to a pay-as-you-go system that the Postal Service used prior to the PAEA.

By repealing the prefunding mandate, the Postal Service would then be able to focus on investing and innovating services in order to better meet its mission to service every American household and business.

“The bi-partisan 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.

Contact the APWU Legislative and Political Department at (202) 842-4211 for more information
A complete list of APWU Legislative Priorities is available at apwu.org

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