



American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO

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LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

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117TH CONGRESS

Send Privatizers in Congress a Message: The U.S. Mail Is Not For Sale!

In the 117th Congress, there are still elected officials who would privatize the Postal Service if they had their way. Though the threat of privatization is not quite as imminent as it was under the previous administration, the threat has not disappeared.

Under the previous administration, attempts to privatize the Postal Service came from the highest levels of government. The White House Office of Management and Budget issued a restructuring plan for the Federal Government in 2018, which directly called for the privatization of the Postal Service. The proposal had language posing to “restructure the U.S. Postal Service” and “prepare it for future conversion from a Government agency into a privately-held corporation.”

Last summer, amid a pandemic and ahead of a presidential election, USPS developed policies, changed work rules, and implemented procedures that harmed service. Slowing down the mail has degraded the service USPS provides, causing people to rely increasingly on private companies to send packages, pay bills, and receive medication. Many opponents of the Postal Service in Congress and in the corporate arena want to respond to the degradation of service, not by supporting improvements to USPS, but by pushing for privatizing.

Thanks to our U.S. Mail Not For Sale campaign, we successfully fought off efforts to privatize our public Postal Service last year. Unfortunately, these weren't the first attempts to privatize the Postal Service, and they certainly won't be the last.

What Does Privatization Mean?

- Privatization means the end of our publicly owned and operated United States Postal Service, to be replaced in part or whole by private corporate interests.
- Privatization means the elimination of our jobs with all of our negotiated benefits. Further, it jeopardizes the future of our hard-earned retirement and healthcare benefits.

The Stakes

Privatizing the Postal Service and eliminating its universal service mandate that is enshrined in the U.S. Constitution, will have a very real and very negative impact on those who depend on affordable, reliable mail delivery. It means service cuts for millions of Americans, particularly those in rural areas and inner cities. Privatization means hiked postage rates and the end of timely service and door delivery.



House Resolution 47 (Introduced on January 13, 2021)

The resolution, sponsored by Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-MA-08), has 175 sponsors in the House. If passed, the resolution would express the House's support for taking all appropriate measures to ensure that the United States Postal Service remains an independent establishment of the Federal Government and is not subject to privatization. Representatives Lynch and Davis introduced a version of this resolution last Congress.

The threats of postal privatization, the threats to decent union jobs, and the threats to reliable services are genuine and ever-evolving. Though the current White House administration is not hostile to the Postal Service, that doesn't mean that certain members of Congress, corporations, and private interests will relax their efforts to pursue postal privatization. The 117th Congress should do everything in its power to protect against current and future privatization efforts and pass H.Res. 47.

The American Postal Workers Union stands with the people of this country and our many allies in the ongoing fight to ensure a vibrant public Postal Service for generations to come.

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/legislative-and-political

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