



NATIONAL RURAL LETTER CARRIERS' ASSOCIATION

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Chairman James Comer
Oversight and Government Reform
U.S House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Stephen Lynch
Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

April 29, 2025

Dear Chairman Comer and Ranking Member Lynch,

On behalf of the 130,000 bargaining unit members of the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association (NRLCA), we write to express our strong opposition to the 2025 Budget Reconciliation Committee Print that includes several harmful proposals that will negatively impact current and future rural letter carriers, and all postal and federal employees, by eroding the basic financial security they were promised when they entered the public sector to serve their communities.

The 2025 Budget Reconciliation Committee Print for the House Oversight Committee includes numerous proposals from the Committee Print that will seriously harm rural letter carriers and postal employees. Increasing the FERS contribution rate to 4.4% is a 450% increase for some postal employees who have spent their entire career in public service. Without any corresponding benefit increase, this increase in the FERS contribution rate will result in a substantial reduction in take-home pay. The Committee Print also looks to eliminate the supplemental retirement annuity payment for postal retirees who are eligible to retire before the age of 62, a key benefit that bridges the gap until they can collect Social Security. The proposal also looks to change the retirement calculation of retirees, basing a retiree's annuity on their average highest five years of earnings instead of the highest three years of earnings, significantly lowering the employee's anticipated annuity. The savings the Committee Print claims to achieve comes off the hardworking backs of the postal employees' paychecks and retirees' annuities.

Postal and federal employees cannot continue to be the low-hanging fruit Congress consistently picks when it is looking for budget savings. Since 2011, the federal workforce has already contributed \$300 billion towards deficit reduction through pay freezes, reduced salary increases, and two increases in retirement contributions for new hires that impacted postal employees. All these policy changes are equivalent to pay cuts for hardworking postal and federal employees. Despite all these attacks, rural letter carriers continue to do their jobs with dedication and honor,

continuing to serve their communities during the wildfires in California, devastating hurricanes in Florida and North Carolina, and severe flooding in the South and Midwest.

Postal and federal employees should not serve as targets during the budget process. Postal employees enter public service not to get rich, but to have a steady and reliable job with decent benefits so that they can retire with dignity. The current proposals will make it harder for postal employees to afford retirement, causing them to work longer or leave the public sector altogether. Therefore, we implore you to oppose and reject the proposed changes to postal and federal employee pay and retirement benefits.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Don L. Maston". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Donald L. Maston
President
National Rural Letter Carriers' Association