



Workers' Injury Law & Advocacy Group®

WILG is the national non-profit membership organization dedicated to representing the interests of millions of workers and their families who, each year, suffer the consequences of work-related injuries or occupational illnesses and who need expert legal assistance to obtain medical care and other relief under workers' compensation programs. WILG is a network of like-minded advocates for workers' rights, sharing information and knowledge, a sense of commitment and kinship, and networking to help each other and our clients.

August 21, 2020

Hon. Carolyn Maloney, Chair
House Committee on Oversight and Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, D. C. 20515

Hon. Gerry Connolly, Chair
House Subcommittee on Government Operations,
2157 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
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Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Hon. Maloney & Hon. Connolly,

We are writing on behalf of Workers' Injury Law and Advocacy Group (WILG)¹ regarding the current crisis situation with the United States Postal Service. WILG supports the bi-partisan Postal Service Emergency Assistance Act to protect the jobs of postal workers, to ensure that veterans receive their mail-order prescriptions and that those individuals and businesses that rely on the Postal Service go without any further disruption during these times. We are aware that Postmaster General Louis DeJoy has informed Speaker Nancy Pelosi that he will place a pause on the operational changes that he had implemented until November 3, 2020. This does not go far enough. The Postal Service has to be restored to its pre-pandemic operational situation.

As an organization whose members represent injured federal workers, we are familiar with the job that postal workers do and their work conditions. Postal workers are strongly supported by the general public. The operational changes already done of denying overtime, reducing operating hours, and removing mail boxes and postal equipment harms efficiency, decreases morale and punishes postal workers. Instead of being given the tools to their jobs, those tools have been taken away from postal workers.

¹ WILG is the nation's only professional association of attorneys dedicated to representing injured workers under all U. S. workers' compensation systems, state and federal, with about 1,000 members and members in all 50 states.

We are also mindful of the constituents that USPS serves. One of those constituents are veterans. The Disabled American Veterans said in a statement on August 17, 2020 regarding how the operational changes has affected veterans that

The VA has now confirmed to us that the United States Postal Service (USPS), which is responsible for delivering about 90% of all VA mail order prescriptions, has indeed been delayed in delivering these critical medications by an average of almost 25% over the past year, with many locations experiencing much more significant delays.²

These are veterans who need mail-order because of difficulty getting to a pharmacy, live in a remote area or because of a mental condition cannot leave their home.

Many individuals still receive their paychecks and for injured workers, disability checks, through the mail. We are accustomed to what happens when there is any delay in these working Americans not receiving their payment timely. Individuals and businesses still rely on the post office because it is reliable and cost-effective. The operational changes are counter-productive to that reliability and value for services.

The Postal Service was established by Congress pursuant to Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution. The goal should be to make the Postal Service run more efficiently, not to dismantle it. The operational changes do not improve efficiency. Any permanent, systemic changes to the USPS should be done through Congress on a bi-partisan basis. The USPS is in need of systemic changes and we hope those changes will eventually come. For now however, emergency funding for the USPS should be approved to restore the Postal Service to its pre-pandemic levels.

Yours truly,



William L. Smith, II
WILG President

CC: Nancy Pelosi
Steny Hoyer
Bobby Scott

² <https://www.dav.org/learn-more/news/2020/statement-on-usps-delays-from-dav-national-commander-stephen-butch-whitehead/>