

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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Opening Statement Chairman Stephen F. Lynch Subcommittee on National Security Full Committee Hearing

“Legislative Proposals to Put the Postal Service on Sustainable Financial Footing” February 24, 2021

Thank you, Madam Chair.

I’d like to commend you and Ranking Member Comer for your continued leadership in addressing the urgent financial challenges facing the U.S. Postal Service. I’d also like to thank Chairman Connolly, Ranking Member Hice, and Representative Lawrence for their work on this important issue.

Beginning with the draft text of the Postal Service Reform Act of 2021, we now have an opportunity to take a viable path towards enhancing the financial viability of our most trusted government institution. This legislation is strictly reflective of fundamental reform areas that are the subject of bipartisan and stakeholder consensus. Moreover, its sole purpose is to ensure that the Postal Service and its dedicated workforce are equipped to carry out their vital public service mission in the long term.

The strength of the U.S. Postal Service rests with the more than 645,000 letter carriers, clerks, mail handlers, supervisors, and postmasters who work to process and deliver the mail to every home and business in America six – even seven – days a week. Any meaningful effort to enact postal reform must reflect the commitment and sacrifice of America’s postal workers.

As Chairwoman Maloney stated earlier, the integration of postal retiree health benefit plans with Medicare is one of the core reforms included in this draft. This proposal comes down to a question of basic fairness. To date, our postal workforce has been required to pay nearly \$35 billion into Medicare since 1983 and remains the second largest federal workforce Medicare contributor after Defense Department employees. Meanwhile, one quarter of postal employees never receive Medicare benefits while all postal employees bear the cost of higher retiree health benefits premiums.

I strongly support our Committee's efforts to enact commonsense and bipartisan reform legislation and yield back the balance of my time.

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