

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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August 20, 2020

The Honorable James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Ranking Member Comer:

Yesterday, you sent a letter with Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy and Minority Whip Steve Scalise to me and Speaker Nancy Pelosi objecting to this Saturday's vote on H.R. 8015, the Delivering for America Act. This critical legislation provides \$25 billion supported by the Board of Governors appointed by President Trump to help the Postal Service operate effectively through the coronavirus crisis, and it returns delivery standards to levels prior to the Postmaster General's recent damaging changes.

Your letter makes two baseless arguments: that "Democrats have manufactured a crisis to undermine President Trump at the expense of America's institutions" and that providing the requested funding for the Postal Service is "an unnecessary bailout plan."

Contrary to your claims, your own fellow Republicans across the country—at the local, state, and federal level—have expressed serious concerns. They have objected to the President's explicit admission last week that he has been blocking the \$25 billion in order to hobble mail-in voting, as well as the Postmaster General's sweeping changes that are slowing down the mail in the midst of this pandemic, just months before the election, causing medications to be delayed for veterans who sacrificed for our country. **Attached for your review is a list of letters and statements of concern from Republicans across the country.**

Your letter also ignores a request from 26 of your own Republican colleagues in the House calling on Minority Leader McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin to support a "public service" appropriation of at least \$25 billion to the Postal Service to alleviate some of the strain caused by the pandemic." Although they sent their letter more than three months ago—on May 5, 2020—President Trump and Leader McConnell have refused to support it. **Also attached for your review is their letter.**

Your letter dismisses these bipartisan concerns as "conspiracy theories" that do not have "any basis in fact." You suggest that the Postal Service does not need any funding at all because it has managed to stave off the worst-case forecasts of the coronavirus crisis and may be able to scrape by until next summer before completely running out of money and ceasing operations.

However, you also ignore a letter we received just last week from the Postal Service warning that “we face an impending liquidity crisis” and concluding: “We are currently unable to balance our costs with available funding sources to fulfill both our universal service mission and other legal obligations.”

Supporting \$25 billion is the most responsible and effective course to help the Postal Service navigate through the coronavirus crisis without having to make drastic cuts during this critical time. The bill we are voting on this Saturday gives the Postal Service the funding it requested—which was supported on a bipartisan basis—and returns delivery standards to their previous levels. Every Member of Congress should support it.

There is one statement in your letter I agree with: “The right to vote is foundational to our Republic, and all votes must be fairly counted. Americans should have confidence that each vote counts, regardless of whether they vote in person or by mail in the 2020 election.”

Unfortunately, President Trump made crystal clear last week that he fundamentally disagrees. He has blocked funding for the Postal Service due to his opposition to mail-in voting, and the Postmaster General is now using this lack of funding to justify drastic cuts that are slowing the mail and jeopardizing the right to vote.

The American people do not want the Postal Service to be politicized. Americans started voting by mail during the Civil War, they voted by mail during the Spanish flu, and they should enjoy access to absentee ballots like the President submitted in Florida just this week. The American people want their mail, their medicines, and their mail-in ballots delivered in a timely manner. I urge you to listen to your constituents and your colleagues, and I hope you will support our legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carolyn B. Maloney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Carolyn" being more prominent than the last name "Maloney".

Carolyn B. Maloney
Chairwoman

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
The Honorable Steve Scalise