



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT AND REFORM
CHAIRWOMAN **CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

DELIVERING FOR AMERICA ACT

H.R. 8015, the “Delivering for America Act,” would prohibit the Postal Service from implementing or approving any changes to the operations or service levels in effect on January 1, 2020, that would impede prompt, reliable, and efficient service. The prohibition would remain in effect for the duration of the coronavirus crisis or through January 2021. The bill would prohibit:

- Any change that would generally affect service on a nationwide or substantially nationwide basis.
- Any revision of existing service standards.
- Closing, consolidating, or reducing the hours of any post office or postal facility.
- Any prohibition on paying overtime to Postal Service officers or employees.
- Any change that would prevent the Postal Service from meeting its service standards or cause a decline in measurements of performance relative to those standards.
- Any change that would have the effect of delaying mail or increasing the volume of undelivered mail.

In addition, H.R. 8015:

- Includes \$25 billion in emergency coronavirus funding requested by the Postal Service and supported unanimously and on a bipartisan basis by the Postal Board of Governors—all of whom were appointed by President Trump. The House of Representatives passed this request three months ago as part of the Heroes Act.
- Requires the Postal Service to treat all official election mail as First-Class mail
- Prohibits the removal, decommissioning, or other termination of mail sorting machines, other than for routine maintenance.
- Prohibits the removal of mailboxes.
- Explicitly reverses any changes already implemented to the operations or policies of the Postal Service that delay mail delivery.

Over the past several weeks, sweeping operational and organizational changes at the Postal Service have resulted in delays in the mail across the country, in rural and urban communities, and among veterans, seniors, and families. Some of these changes include curtailing overtime, restricting deliveries, eliminating sorting machines, and removing mailboxes.

Concerns have been raised by both Democratic and Republican officials at the federal, state, and local levels. These changes are being rushed through—in the midst of a global pandemic just months before the November elections—without adequate consultation with Congress, the Postal Service Board of Governors, the Postal Regulatory Commission, postal employees unions, state elections officials, business organizations, and other stakeholders.

The Postmaster General recently reassigned 23 postal executives in an overhaul that experts warn “deemphasizes decades’ worth of institutional postal knowledge” and “centralizes power around DeJoy.” The restructure also proposed a hiring freeze, early retirements, unit realignments, and regional downscaling.

On August 11, 2020, the Postal Service’s General Counsel revealed that state election workers had been notified that paying Marketing Mail rates instead of First-Class rates for election mail “will result in slower delivery times and will increase the risk that voters will not receive their ballots in time to return them by mail.” This breaks from the Postal Service’s longstanding practice of prioritizing the delivery of all election mail to meet First-Class delivery times.

In response to a national outcry about these changes, on August 18, 2020, the Postmaster General announced the suspension of some of these changes. However, not all of the changes were included in the announcement, and the Postal Service still requires urgent funding to cope with the effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

POSTAL SERVICE FAST FACTS

The Postal Service is the only organization dedicated to providing regular, affordable, universal mail delivery service to every residential and business address in the United States and its territories. For 55 cents, anyone can send a letter anywhere in the country.

In 2019, the Postal Service:

- Delivered 142.6 billion pieces of mail to 160 million addresses in America.
- Delivered 1.2 billion prescriptions, including most of the medications ordered by the VA.
- Employed 633,108 of our friends and neighbors, including more than 100,000 veterans.
- Served 70% of businesses with fewer than ten employees.
- Had a 90% favorability rating, making it the most popular federal agency.

The Postal Service:

- Is often the only delivery option for rural America, where service is not profitable.
- Delivers 48% of the world’s mail with one of the world’s largest civilian vehicle fleets.
- Is a vital service for the more than 18 million seniors who do not use the Internet.