NANCY PELOSI
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

FACT SHEET
FROM SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE NANCY PELOSI
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H.R. 8015, Delivering for America Act

This Critical Bill Saves the U.S. Postal Service and the Right to Vote from the Trump Administration's Assaults

Key Points:

The Delivering for America Act

- On Saturday, the House will consider H.R. 8015, Delivering for America Act, a bill introduced by Rep. Carolyn Maloney, Chair of the House Oversight and Reform Committee, on August 11. The bill has 222 cosponsors.
- This critical bill saves the U.S. Postal Service and the right to vote from the Trump Administration's ongoing assaults. The bill has several key provisions, including:
  - Prohibiting 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 remains in effect during the duration of the coronavirus public health emergency or January 2021, whichever is later.
  - Requiring the Postal Service to treat all election mail as first-class mail.
  - Providing $25 billion in critically-needed emergency appropriations for the Postal Service, the level of funding recommended by the USPS Board of Governors, which is composed of 100 percent Trump appointees.
- This bill is critically needed because of the Trump Administration's ongoing sabotage of the Postal Service and its ongoing sabotage of the November election -- by using damaging changes by the Postal Service to threaten the ability of eligible Americans to cast their votes through the mail in the upcoming election in a timely fashion.
- In addition to pushing damaging changes at the Postal Service, President Trump is also pursuing numerous other steps to suppress the vote in November, including falsely claiming, without evidence, that the use of mail-in ballots will cause massive fraud and also by pursuing lawsuits to attempt to block states from using mail-in ballots in the middle of this devastating pandemic.

As Soon As He Arrived in Mid-June, Postmaster General DeJoy Began Implementing the Trump Administration's Assaults on the Post Office, Causing Delivery Delays Across the Country

- **The Arrival of Louis DeJoy:** On June 16, 2020, Louis DeJoy, a major GOP donor, hand-picked by the Trump Administration, who had no prior Postal Service experience, became the Postmaster General. Soon after he arrived, he began implementing sweeping operational and organizational changes at the Postal Service.
- **Starting This Summer, Americans Across the Country Began Complaining of Significant Mail Delays:** Across the country, Americans have been contacting their Members of Congress complaining of mail delays. Those complaining have included veterans who rely on the mail to get their medications, seniors who have been told to stay home who rely on the mail for many essentials, and people living in both rural and urban areas.
- **The Removal of Critical Mail Sorting Machines:** In July, **r**eporters obtained an internal Postal Service memorandum that stated that, under DeJoy, the Postal Service had begun the process of removing

671 key mail sorting machines. Before DeJoy announced a pause on some of the changes, many of these sorting machines had already been removed or dismantled.

- **The Removal of Mailboxes:** Also in July, Americans began reporting that they were witnessing local mailboxes being removed in their neighborhoods. Before stopped, mailboxes had been removed in such states as Oregon, New York, Montana, and Indiana.
- **Drastic Reduction in Availability of Overtime:** Another step that DeJoy implemented was reducing drastically the availability of overtime for Postal Service employees, directly causing delays in delivery.
- **Sending Notices to 46 States That Even If Voters Followed State Deadlines, Their Ballots Might Not Arrive In Time to Be Counted.** In late July, the Postal Service sent out notices to 46 states and the District of Columbia that voters could potentially be at risk that their ballots might not be delivered in time to be counted, even if they met the deadlines set by states to send in their ballots.

Why DeJoy's Misleading Announcement of "A Temporary Pause" Fails to Return the Postal Service to Its Prior Level of Service and Fails to Ensure Ballots Will Be Delivered on Time in November

- **DeJoy's Announcement on August 18:** On August 18, thanks to the activism of Democrats and the American people, Postmaster General DeJoy announced an alleged pause in operational changes delaying the mail through the November election. However, this misleading announcement is completely insufficient and does not solve the problems DeJoy has already created, which is why the Delivering for America Act is still so vitally needed.
- **The Misleading DeJoy Announcement Is Completely Insufficient:** The misleading DeJoy announcement is completely insufficient for numerous reasons, including the following:
  - The announced pause does not reverse the enormous damage that has already been done. Indeed, the Postmaster General admitted that he has no intention of replacing the sorting machines, blue mailboxes and other key mail infrastructure that has been removed. The Postmaster General also admitted that plans for overtime which are critical for the timely delivery of the mail are not in the works.
  - The announced pause only halts a limited number of the Postmaster General's changes.
  - The announced pause does nothing to ensure that voters can be assured that, if they send in their ballots according to their state's deadlines, their ballot will be delivered by the Postal Service in time to be counted.
  - The announced pause is only temporary. Apparently, after the election, DeJoy will return to the damaging changes that have led to serious mail delays across the country, resulting in veterans not getting their life-saving medications on time and seniors not getting their essential supplies when needed.

The Key Provisions of the Bill

Requiring the Postal Service to Return to the Operations Levels and Service Levels In Effect on January 1, 2020

The bill prohibits 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 prohibitions would remain in effect for the duration of the coronavirus public health emergency or January 1, 2021, whichever is later. Specifically, 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; and
- Any change that would have the effect of delaying mail or increasing the volume of undelivered mail.

Requiring the Postal Service to Treat All Election Mail as First-Class Mail

Background

- The Postal Service has had a longstanding practice of prioritizing the delivery of all election mail to meet First-Class delivery times – even if it doesn't have First-Class postage.
- However, breaking with this longstanding practice, on August 11, 2020, the Postal Service's General Counsel revealed that state election workers had been notified that a state 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."

The Bill's Provisions

- **All Election Mail to be Treated As First-Class Mail:** Specifically, the bill states, "The United States Postal Service shall ensure, to the maximum extent practical, that election mail is processed and cleared from any postal facility or post office on the same day as it is received at such a facility or post office" and specifically prohibits the Postal Service from "treating election mail as any class of mail other than first-class mail."
- **All Election Mail Shall Be Postmarked:** The bill states "It shall be the policy of the United States Postal Service to postmark, which shall include any imprinted indicia from the Postal Service that indicates the date of receipt, all election mail processed by the Postal Service."

Providing An Emergency Appropriation of $25 Billion, The Amount Requested Unanimously By the USPS Board of Governors, Which Is Composed of 100 Percent Trump Appointees

- **The Bill's Provision:** The bill provides the $25 billion in critical funding for the Postal Service that was requested in April by the USPS Board of Governors, which is composed of 100 percent Trump appointees.
- **The Request by the USPS Board of Governors for the $25 Billion Emergency Appropriation:** On April 1, 2020, the USPS Board of Governors met and approved by a unanimous vote to submit a request to Congress for an emergency appropriation of $25 billion to address the financial crisis created for the Postal Service by the coronavirus pandemic and the resulting economic downturn.
- **Briefing to A House Committee by Prior-Postmaster General Megan Brennan in April on the Postal Service's Dire Financial Situation:** On April 9, then-Postmaster General Megan Brennan held a virtual briefing with the Members of the House Oversight and Reform Committee to discuss the Postal Service's current financial crisis. At this briefing, Brennan made the following points about the crisis:
    - Brennan pointed out, "We are at a critical juncture in the life of the Postal Service. At a time when America needs the Postal Service more than ever, the reason we are so needed is having a devastating impact on our business. The Postal Service relies on the sale of postal products and services to fund our operations and these sales are plummeting as a result of the pandemic. Also, the sudden drop in mail volumes, our most profitable revenue stream, is steep."
    - Brennan stated that the Postal Service will "run out of cash" by September without financial assistance from Congress. This lack of cash could cripple the ability of the Postal Service to continue to deliver the medications, the packages, the benefit checks, and the ballots that Americans rely on the mail for now more than ever in this pandemic.