

## **NARFE Minnesota Federation Legislative Update - August 2020**

NARFE members are encouraged to continue their advocacy with members of Congress during the month-long summer recess. Through various types of advocacy activities, NARFE members play an active role in protecting their earned pay and benefits, and work to advance NARFE's legislative priorities.

This year's campaign is happening amid the COVID-19 pandemic that has kept Americans under mandated stay-at-home orders for several months. Despite these challenges, NARFE's Grassroots Advocacy Month goes on with the same energy and enthusiasm our community continues to show during these unprecedented times.

**Grassroots Advocacy: Have a concise effective message, keep it simple, tell your story, and have a clear "ask".**

### **All Civil Servants and Citizens Deserve the Right to Self-Government**

There are more than 141,000 active federal employees working in the District of Columbia, many of whom live there, and more than 44,000 district residents who are federal annuitants. These men and women have served our nation with distinction, yet they are not afforded the same rights and privileges to self-government as the citizens they have served. It's time to correct this blight on America's democracy by granting statehood to the District of Columbia."

### **NARFE Disappointed in Failure of House Appropriators to Provide Feds with Pay Raise**

Federal workers continue to make outstanding contributions and sacrifices in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and many continue to face a greater risk of infection due to their civil jobs. But House appropriators decided to ignore those contributions, look the other way, and defer their authority over federal pay to the president, risking a minimal pay increase or even a pay freeze for our nation's dedicated public servants. It shows an unfortunate lack of respect for public service at time when we need that more than ever.

"NARFE urges the subcommittee to reconsider its position when the bill is considered this week, and further urges the full Appropriations Committee to provide federal employees with a meaningful raise if the subcommittee maintains its silence on this crucial matter."

### **NARFE opposes United States Postal Service operations that threaten substantial delivery delays, and to urge support for legislation to ensure an adequate level of service**

NARFE also continues to urge Congress to pass emergency appropriations for USPS to ensure financial viability without decreased service. Such funds would be provided by provisions of H.R. 6800, the Heroes Act, which passed the House, and a bipartisan Senate measure, S. 4147, the Postal Emergency Assistance Act, among other bills. We urge swift passage by both chambers of adequate funding. Congress must make the financial commitment to ensure this cherished institution endures. There should be no excuse, however weak, for the current service cuts. The Postal Service provides a vital lifeline linking communities and delivering essential goods and communications throughout this crisis. During this time of economic uncertainty and unprecedented challenge for every American, we can ill afford the demise of USPS.

- **Oppose the President's Fiscal Year 2021 Budget**
- **Support a Bipartisan WEP Reform Solution**
- **Support the USPS Fairness Act**
- **Support the Fair COLA for Seniors Act of 2019 (H.R. 1553)**
- **Tell Your Members of Congress to Support The Fair Act of 2020**
- **Support the Federal Retirement Fairness Act**
- **Oppose Mandatory Medicare Enrollment for Postal Retirees**
- **Support the Social Security Fairness Act of 2019**
- **Support the Equal COLA Act of 2019**

**NARFE BILL TRACKER**

THE NARFE BILL TRACKER IS YOUR MONTHLY GUIDE TO THE CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATION THAT NARFE IS FOLLOWING. CHECK BACK EACH ISSUE FOR UPDATES.

ISSUE	BILL NUMBER / NAME / SPONSOR	WHAT BILL WOULD DO	LATEST ACTION(S)
THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN	<b>H.R. 6614/S. 2791:</b> Taxpayers and Savers Protection (TSP) Act / Rep. Michael Waltz, R-FL / Sen. Marco Rubio, R-FL Cosponsors: H.R. 6614: 2 (D) 29 (R) S. 2791: 2 (D) 7 (R)	Removes Chinese companies from the Thrift Savings Plan international fund, putting investors at a distinct disadvantage compared to private-sector retirement funds.	Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Reform (H.R. 6614) / Referred to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs (S. 2791)
	<b>H.Res. 23:</b> Rep. Susan Davis, D-CA Cosponsors: 208 (D) 53 (R)	Expresses the sense of the House that the United States Postal Service should take all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of door delivery for all business and residential customers.	Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Reform
POSTAL REFORM	<b>H.Res. 33/S.Res. 99:</b> Rep. Stephen Lynch, D-MA / Sen. Gary Peters, D-MI Cosponsors: H.Res. 33: 226 (D) 41 (R) S.Res. 99: 44 (D) 8 (R) 2 (I)	Expresses the sense of the House that Congress should take all appropriate measures to ensure that the United States Postal Service remains an independent establishment of the federal government and is not subject to privatization.	Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Reform (H.Res. 33) Referred to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs (S.Res. 99)
	<b>H.Res. 54:</b> Rep. Gerald Connolly, D-VA Cosponsors: 218 (D) 75 (R)	Expresses the sense of the House that the United States Postal Service should take all appropriate measures to restore the continuation of its six-day mail delivery service.	Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Reform
	<b>H.Res. 60:</b> Rep. David McKinley, R-WV Cosponsors: 181 (D) 25 (R)	Expresses the sense of the House that the United States Postal Service should take all appropriate measures to restore service standards in effect as of July 1, 2012.	Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Reform
	<b>H.R. 2382/S. 2965:</b> USPS Fairness Act / Rep. Peter DeFazio, D-OR / Sen. Steve Daines, R-MT H.R. 2382: 233 (D) 68 (R) S. 2965: 4 (D) 3 (R)	Repeals the USPS' prefunding requirement.	Passed the House of Representatives 309-106 (H.R. 2382) on February 5, 2020 / Referred to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs (S. 2965)

**Minnesota Delegation Legislative Cosponsors-**

**H. R. 6614/S. 2791:** None (29R, 2D)/ None \* (7R, 2D)

**H. Res. 23:** Angie Craig, Dean Phillips, Betty McCollum, Pete Stauber (208D, 54R)

**H. Res 33/S. Res. 99:** Angie Craig, Dean Phillips, Betty McCollum, Ilhan Omar, Pete Stauber (225D, 42R),/ Tina Smith, Amy Klobuchar (44D, 8R, 2I)

**H. Res 54:** Jim Hagedorn, Angie Craig, Dean Phillips, Betty McCollum, Tom Emmer, Colin Peterson, Pete Stauber (217D, 75R)

**H. R. 60:** Angie Craig, Dean Phillips, Betty McCollum, Pete Stauber (180D, 26R)

**H. R. 2382/S. 2965: Passed the house February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020 so thank your supporting Representative(s)** (232D, 69R)

Jim Hagedorn, Angie Craig, Dean Phillips, Betty McCollum, Ilhan Omar, Tom Emmer, Colin Peterson, Pete Stauber/ NONE (4D, 3R)

*We need to contact our Senators to encourage their support for passage. Trackers (govtrack) have been unable to locate any explicit statements of opposition, but the main sources of opposition are the Postal Service's private sector competitors who would rather keep their opposition behind the scenes. Lobbying to mandate the status quo is expected to be strong. FedEx spent \$10.1 million on lobbying last year, while UPS spent \$9.3 million.*

**H. R. 141/S. 521:** Angie Craig, Betty McCollum, Tom Emmer, Colin Peterson, Pete Stauber (193D, 59R)/ Tina Smith, Amy Klobuchar (31D, 5R, 2I)

**H. R. 3934/S. 3401:** NONE- (44R, 3D)/ NONE- (1R)

**H. R. 4540:** Angie Craig, Betty McCollum, Colin Peterson (141D, 2R)

**H. R. 1254:** NONE- (16D, 3R)

**H. R. 1553:** Betty McCollum (36D, 3R)

**H. R. 2478:** NONE- (45D, 13R)

**H. R. 51/ H.R 5803: : Passed the house June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020 so thank your supporting Representative(s)**

Angie Craig, Dean Phillips, Betty McCollum, Ilhan Omar were cosponsors, voting in favor were Jim Hagedorn & Ilhan Omar

**H. R. 5690/S. 3231:** NONE- (34D)/NONE- (10D)

**H. R. 3348/S. 1898:** NONE- (24R)/NONE- (5)

GPO/WEP	<b>H.R. 141/S. 521</b> Social Security Fairness Act of 2019 / Rep. Rodney Davis, R-IL / Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-OH Cosponsors: H.R. 141: 169 (D) 58 (R) S. 521: 31 (D) 5 (R) 2 (I)	Repeals both the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP).	Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means (H.R. 141) Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance (S. 521)
	<b>H.R. 3934/S. 3401</b> The Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act / Rep. Kevin Brady, R-TX / Sen. Ted Cruz, R-TX Cosponsors: H.R. 3934: 3 (D) 42 (R) S. 3401: 1 (R)	Reforms the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), to provide WEP-affected individuals who are eligible for benefits before 2022 a \$100 monthly rebate and \$50 for an affected spouse. Changes the WEP calculation moving forward.	Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means (H.R. 3934) Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance (S. 340)
	<b>H.R. 4540</b> Public Servants Protection and Fairness Act / Rep. Richard Neal, D-MA Cosponsors: 140 (D) 2 (R)	Reforms the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), to provide WEP-affected individuals who are eligible for benefits before 2022 a \$150 monthly rebate. Changes the WEP calculation moving forward.	Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means
FEDERAL ANNUITIES	<b>H.R. 1254:</b> The Equal COLA Act / Rep. Gerry Connolly, D-VA Cosponsors: 15 (D) 3 (R)	Provides Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) retirees with the same annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) as Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) retirees.	Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Reform
	<b>H.R. 1553:</b> Fair COLA for Seniors Act of 2019 / Rep. John Garamendi, D-CA Cosponsors: 36 (D) 2 (R)	Requires Social Security and federal retirement programs to use the Consumer Price Index for the Elderly (CPI-E) to calculate cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) to retirement benefits.	Referred to the House Committees on Ways and Means, Veterans Affairs, Oversight and Reform, and Armed Services
	<b>H.R. 2478:</b> The Federal Retirement Fairness Act / Rep. Derek Kilmer, D-WA Cosponsors: 45 (D) 13 (R)	Allows federal employees who started their careers in temporary positions before transitioning into permanent roles to retroactively contribute toward their retirement for the years they held a temporary position.	Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Reform
DC STATEHOOD	<b>H.R. 51/H.R.5803:</b> Washington, D.C. Admission Act / Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton, D-DC Cosponsors: 223 (D)	Provides for the admission of the State of Washington, D.C. into the Union.	Passed the House of Representatives 232-180 on June 26, 2020.

ISSUE	BILL NUMBER / NAME / SPONSOR	WHAT BILL WOULD DO	LATEST ACTION(S)
FEDERAL COMPENSATION	<b>H.R. 5690/S. 3231:</b> Federal Adjustment of Income Rates (FAIR) Act / Rep. Gerry Connolly, D-VA / Sen. Brian Schatz, D-HI H.R. 5690: 32 (D) S. 3231: 10 (D)	Provides federal employees with a 3.5 percent pay raise in 2021.	Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Reform (H.R. 5690) / Referred to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs (S. 3231)
FEDERAL PERSONNEL POLICY	<b>H.R. 3348/S. 1898:</b> Modern Employment Reform, Improvement, and Transformation (MERIT) Act of 2019 / Rep. Barry Loudermilk, R-GA / Sen. David Perdue, R-GA H.R. 3348: 19 (R) S. 1898: 19 (R)	Streamlines the employee removal process for agencies by weakening due process for federal employees.	Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Reform (H.R. 3348) / Referred to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs (S. 1898)

NARFE's Position: Support Oppose No position

