

2022, at 9 p.m., for the purpose of receiving such communication as the President of the United States shall be pleased to make to them.

POSTAL SERVICE REFORM ACT OF 2021

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 912, I call up the bill (H.R. 3076) to provide stability to and enhance the services of the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 912, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Oversight and Reform printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117-32 is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered as read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 3076

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Postal Service Reform Act of 2022”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—POSTAL SERVICE FINANCIAL REFORMS

Sec. 101. Postal Service Health Benefits Program.

Sec. 102. USPS Fairness Act.

Sec. 103. Nonpostal services.

TITLE II—POSTAL SERVICE OPERATIONAL REFORMS

Sec. 201. Performance targets and transparency.

Sec. 202. Integrated delivery network.

Sec. 203. Review of Postal Service cost attribution guidelines.

Sec. 204. Rural newspaper sustainability.

Sec. 205. Funding of Postal Regulatory Commission.

Sec. 206. Flats operations study and reform.

Sec. 207. Reporting requirements.

Sec. 208. Postal Service transportation selection policy revisions.

Sec. 209. USPS Inspector General oversight of Postal Regulatory Commission.

TITLE III—SEVERABILITY

Sec. 301. Severability.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

(a) **COMMISSION.**—In this Act, the term “Commission” means the Postal Regulatory Commission.

(b) **TERMS DEFINED IN TITLE 39, UNITED STATES CODE.**—In this Act, the terms “competitive product”, “market-dominant product”, and “Postal Service” have the meanings given those terms in section 102 of title 39, United States Code.

TITLE I—POSTAL SERVICE FINANCIAL REFORMS

SEC. 101. POSTAL SERVICE HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 8903b the following:

“§8903c. Postal Service Health Benefits Program

“(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section—

“(1) the term ‘covered Medicare individual’ means an individual who is entitled to benefits under Medicare part A, but excluding an individual who is eligible to enroll under such part under section 1818 or 1818A of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395i-2, 1395i-2a);

“(2) the term ‘initial contract year’ means the contract year beginning in January of 2025;

“(3) the term ‘initial participating carrier’ means a carrier that enters into a contract with the Office to participate in the Program during the initial contract year;

“(4) the term ‘Medicare part A’ means part A of title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395c et seq.);

“(5) the term ‘Medicare part B’ means part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395j et seq.);

“(6) the term ‘Office’ means the Office of Personnel Management;

“(7) the term ‘Postal Service’ means the United States Postal Service;

“(8) the term ‘Postal Service annuitant’ means an annuitant enrolled in a health benefits plan under this chapter whose Government contribution is required to be paid under section 8906(g)(2);

“(9) the term ‘Postal Service employee’ means an employee of the Postal Service enrolled in a health benefits plan under this chapter whose Government contribution is paid by the Postal Service;

“(10) the term ‘Postal Service Medicare covered annuitant’ means an individual who—

“(A) is a Postal Service annuitant; and

“(B) is a covered Medicare individual;

“(11) the term ‘Program’ means the Postal Service Health Benefits Program established under subsection (c) within the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program;

“(12) the term ‘Program plan’ means a health benefits plan offered under the Program; and

“(13) the definitions set forth in section 8901 shall apply, and for the purposes of applying such definitions in carrying out this section, a Postal Service employee and Postal Service annuitant shall be treated in the same manner as an employee and an annuitant (as those terms are defined in paragraphs (1) and (3), respectively, of section 8901), consistent with the requirements of this section.

“(b) **APPLICATION.**—The requirements under this section shall—

“(1) apply to the initial contract year and each contract year thereafter; and

“(2) supersede any other provision of this chapter inconsistent with such requirements, as determined by the Office.

“(c) **ESTABLISHMENT OF THE POSTAL SERVICE HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—

“(A) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Office shall establish the Postal Service Health Benefits Program within the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program under this chapter, under which the Office may contract with carriers to offer health benefits plans as described under this section.

“(B) **APPLICABILITY OF CHAPTER REQUIREMENTS TO CONTRACTS.**—Except as otherwise provided in this section, any contract described in subparagraph (A) shall be consistent with the requirements of this chapter for contracts under section 8902 with carriers to offer health benefits plans other than under this section.

“(C) **PROGRAM PLANS AND PARTICIPATION.**—The Program shall—

“(i) to the greatest extent practicable—

“(I) with respect to each plan provided by a carrier under this subchapter in which the total enrollment includes, in the contract year beginning in January 2023, 1,500 or more enrollees who are Postal Service employees or Postal Service annuitants, include a plan offered by that carrier with equivalent benefits and cost-shar-

ing requirements as provided under paragraph (2), except that the Director of the Office may exempt any comprehensive medical plan from this requirement; and

“(II) include plans offered by any other carrier determined appropriate by the Office;

“(ii) provide for enrollment in Program plans of Postal Service employees and Postal Service annuitants, in accordance with subsection (d);

“(iii) provide for enrollment in a Program plan as an individual, for self plus one, or for self and family; and

“(iv) not provide for enrollment in a Program plan of an individual who is not a Postal Service employee or Postal Service annuitant (except as a member of family of such an employee or annuitant or as provided under paragraph (4)).

“(2) **COVERAGE WITH EQUIVALENT BENEFITS AND COST-SHARING.**—In the initial contract year, the Office shall ensure that each carrier participating in the Program provides under the Program plans offered by the carrier benefits and cost-sharing requirements that are equivalent to the benefits and cost-sharing requirements under the health benefits plans offered by the carrier under this chapter that are not Program plans, except that prescription drug benefits and cost-sharing requirements may differ between the Program plans and other health benefits plans offered by the carrier under this chapter to the extent needed to integrate the Medicare part D prescription drug benefits coverage required under subsection (h)(2).

“(3) **APPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.**—Except as otherwise set forth in this section, the provisions of this chapter applicable to health benefits plans offered by carriers under section 8903 or 8903a shall apply to plans offered under the Program.

“(4) **APPLICATION OF CONTINUATION COVERAGE.**—In accordance with rules established by the Office, section 8905a shall apply to health benefits plans offered under this section in the same manner as such section applies to other health benefits plans offered under this chapter.

“(d) **ELECTION OF COVERAGE.**—Each Postal Service employee and Postal Service annuitant who elects to receive health benefits coverage under this chapter—

“(1) shall be subject to the requirements of this section; and

“(2) may not enroll in any other health benefits plan offered under any other section of this chapter.

“(e) **REQUIREMENT OF MEDICARE ENROLLMENT FOR CERTAIN ANNUITANTS AND THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS.**—

“(1) **MEDICARE COVERED ANNUITANTS.**—Except as provided under paragraph (3), a Postal Service Medicare covered annuitant may not enroll in a Program plan unless the annuitant is entitled to benefits under Medicare part A and enrolled in Medicare part B.

“(2) **MEDICARE COVERED FAMILY MEMBERS.**—Except as provided under paragraph (3), in the case of a Postal Service annuitant who is entitled to benefits under Medicare part A and required under this subsection to enroll in Medicare part B to enroll under the Program, if a member of family of such Postal Service annuitant is a covered Medicare individual, that member of family may not enroll under the Program as a member of family of the Postal Service annuitant unless that member of family is entitled to benefits under Medicare part A and enrolled in Medicare part B.

“(3) **EXCEPTIONS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The requirements under paragraphs (1) and (2), as applicable, shall not apply with respect to an individual in the following cases:

“(i) **CURRENT POSTAL SERVICE ANNUITANTS.**—The individual, as of January 1, 2025, is a Postal Service annuitant who is not both entitled to benefits under Medicare part A and enrolled in Medicare part B.

“(ii) **CURRENT EMPLOYEES AGED 64 AND OVER.**—The individual, as of January 1, 2025, is

a Postal Service employee and is at least 64 years of age.

“(iii) **POSTAL SERVICE MEDICARE COVERED ANNUITANTS AND FAMILY MEMBERS RESIDING ABROAD.**—For any contract year with respect to which the individual is a Postal Service Medicare covered annuitant or a member of family of a Postal Service Medicare covered annuitant and resides outside the United States (which includes the States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands), provided that the individual demonstrates such residency to the Postal Service in accordance with regulations issued by the Postal Service.

“(iv) **POSTAL SERVICE MEDICARE COVERED ANNUITANTS AND FAMILY MEMBERS ENROLLED UNDER VA COVERAGE.**—The individual—

“(I) is a Postal Service Medicare covered annuitant or a member of family of a Postal Service Medicare covered annuitant; and

“(II) is enrolled in health care benefits provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs under subchapter II of chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code.

“(v) **POSTAL SERVICE MEDICARE COVERED ANNUITANTS AND FAMILY MEMBERS ELIGIBLE FOR IHS HEALTH SERVICES.**—The individual—

“(I) is a Postal Service Medicare covered annuitant or a member of family of a Postal Service Medicare covered annuitant; and

“(II) is eligible for health services from the Indian Health Service.

“(B) **REGULATIONS FOR VA AND IHS EXCEPTIONS.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Office shall, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the Postmaster General, promulgate any regulations necessary to implement clauses (iv) and (v) of subparagraph (A).

“(C) **LIST OF INDIVIDUALS RESIDING ABROAD.**—The Postal Service shall provide a list of individuals who satisfy the exception under subparagraph (A)(iii) to the Office.

“(4) **PROCESS FOR INFORMATION COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION.**—The Postal Service and the Office, in consultation with the Social Security Administration and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, shall establish a process that will enable the Postal Service to timely inform Postal Service employees, Postal Service annuitants, and members of family of such employees and annuitants of the requirements described in paragraphs (1) and (2) in order to be eligible to enroll in Program plans under this section.

“(f) **TRANSITIONAL OPEN SEASON.**—

“(1) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this subsection—

“(A) the term ‘current option’, with respect to an individual, means the option under a plan under this chapter in which the individual is enrolled during the contract year preceding the initial contract year; and

“(B) the term ‘current plan’, with respect to an individual, means the plan under this chapter in which the individual is enrolled during the contract year preceding the initial contract year.

“(2) **AUTOMATIC ENROLLMENT.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subparagraphs (B) and (C), in the case of an individual who is a Postal Service employee or Postal Service annuitant eligible to enroll in a Program plan under subsection (d), who is enrolled in a current plan, and who does not enroll in a Program plan during the open season that immediately precedes the initial contract year, the Office shall automatically enroll the individual, as of the start of the initial contract year, in a Program plan offered by the carrier of the individual’s current plan.

“(B) **CARRIERS OFFERING MULTIPLE PROGRAM PLANS OR OPTIONS.**—If the carrier of the current plan of an individual described in subparagraph (A) offers more than 1 Program plan or option, the Office, in carrying out subparagraph (A),

shall automatically enroll the individual in the plan and option that provide coverage with equivalent benefits and cost sharing, as described in subsection (c)(2), to the individual’s current plan and current option.

“(C) **CARRIERS NOT OFFERING PROGRAM PLANS.**—If the carrier of the current plan of an individual described in subparagraph (A) does not offer a Program plan, the Office, in carrying out subparagraph (A), shall automatically enroll the individual in the lowest-cost nationwide plan option within the Program that is not a high deductible health plan and does not charge an association or membership fee.

“(g) **OPM REGULATIONS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Director of the Office shall issue regulations to carry out this section.

“(2) **CONSULTATION.**—In issuing regulations under paragraph (1), the Director of the Office shall consult, as necessary, with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Commissioner of Social Security, and the Postmaster General.

“(3) **CONTENTS.**—The regulations issued under paragraph (1) shall include—

“(A) any provisions necessary to implement this section;

“(B) a process under which Postal Service annuitants and affected family members are timely informed of the enrollment requirements and may request, in writing, any additional enrollment information;

“(C) provisions under which a Postal Service employee or Postal Service annuitant enrolled under the Program may request a belated change of plan and may be prospectively enrolled in the plan of the employee’s or annuitant’s choice; and

“(D) provisions for individuals to cancel coverage under the Program in writing to the Postal Service because the individuals choose not to enroll in, or to disenroll from, Medicare part B.

“(h) **MEDICARE COORDINATION.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Office shall require each Program plan to provide benefits for covered Medicare individuals pursuant to a coordination of benefits method approved by the Office.

“(2) **MEDICARE PART D PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFITS.**—The Office shall require each Program plan to provide prescription drug benefits to any Postal Service annuitant and member of family of such annuitant who is a part D eligible individual (as defined in section 1860D–1(a)(3)(A) of the Social Security Act) through employment-based retiree health coverage (as defined in section 1860D–22(c)(1) of such Act) through—

“(A) a prescription drug plan (as defined in section 1860D–41(a)(14) of such Act); or

“(B) contracts between such a Program plan and PDP sponsor, as defined in section 1860D–41(a)(13) of such Act, of such a prescription drug plan.

“(i) **POSTAL SERVICE CONTRIBUTION.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subsection (k), for purposes of applying section 8906(b) to the Postal Service, the weighted average shall be calculated in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3).

“(2) **WEIGHTED AVERAGE CALCULATION.**—Not later than October 1 of each year (beginning with 2024), the Office shall determine the weighted average of the rates established pursuant to subsection (c)(2) for Program plans that will be in effect during the following contract year with respect to—

“(A) enrollments for self only;

“(B) enrollments for self plus one; and

“(C) enrollments for self and family.

“(3) **WEIGHTING IN COMPUTING RATES FOR INITIAL CONTRACT YEAR.**—In determining such weighted average of the rates for the initial contract year, the Office shall take into account (for purposes of section 8906(a)(2)) the enrollment of Postal Service employees and annu-

itants in the health benefits plans offered by the initial participating carriers as of March 31, 2022.

“(4) **PAYMENT OF LATE ENROLLMENT PENALTIES.**—The Postal Service may direct the Office to pay the amounts required by section 1839(e) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395r(e)) from the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund established under section 8909a until depleted and thereafter shall pay such amounts from the Postal Service Fund established under section 2003 of title 39.

“(j) **RESERVES.**—

“(1) **SEPARATE RESERVES.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Office shall ensure that each Program plan maintains separate reserves (including a separate contingency reserve) with respect to the enrollees in the Program plan in accordance with section 8909.

“(B) **APPLICABILITY OF SECTION 8909 TO CONTINGENCY RESERVES.**—All provisions of section 8909 relating to contingency reserves shall apply to contingency reserves of Program plans in the same manner as to the contingency reserves of other plans under this chapter, except to the extent that such provisions are inconsistent with the requirements of this subsection.

“(C) **REFERENCES.**—For purposes of the Program, each reference to ‘the Government’ in section 8909 shall be deemed to be a reference to the Postal Service.

“(D) **AMOUNTS TO BE CREDITED.**—The reserves (including the separate contingency reserve) maintained by each Program plan shall be credited with a proportionate amount of the funds in the reserves for health benefits plans offered by the carrier.

“(2) **DISCONTINUATION OF PROGRAM PLAN.**—In applying section 8909(e) relating to a Program plan that is discontinued, the Office shall credit the separate Postal Service contingency reserve maintained under paragraph (1) for that plan only to the separate Postal Service contingency reserves of the Program plans continuing under this chapter.

“(k) **NO EFFECT ON EXISTING LAW.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed as affecting section 1005(f) of title 39 regarding variations, additions, or substitutions to the provisions of this chapter.

“(l) **HEALTH BENEFITS EDUCATION PROGRAM.**—

“(1) **DEFINITION.**—In this subsection, the term ‘navigator’ means an employee of the Postal Service or of a contractor of the Postal Service who is designated by the Postal Service or contractor to carry out activities under paragraph (5).

“(2) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this section, the Postal Service shall establish a Health Benefits Education Program.

“(3) **REQUIREMENTS.**—In carrying out the Health Benefits Education Program established under paragraph (2), the Postal Service shall—

“(A) notify Postal Service annuitants and Postal Service employees about the Postal Service Health Benefits Program established under subsection (c)(1);

“(B) provide information regarding the Postal Service Health Benefits Program and the requirements of this section to Postal Service annuitants and Postal Service employees, including—

“(i) a description of the health care options available under such Program;

“(ii) the enrollment provisions of subsection (d); and

“(iii) the requirement that Postal Service annuitants and their family members be enrolled in Medicare under subsection (e);

“(C) respond and provide answers to any inquiry from such employees and annuitants about the Postal Service Health Benefits Program, in consultation with the Office as necessary;

“(D) refer individuals to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the Social Security Administration that provide information

about Medicare enrollment and options under the Medicare program under XVIII of the Social Security Act; and

“(E) carry out, or provide for through contract or other arrangement, the activities described in paragraph (5).

“(4) INFORMATION.—

“(A) INFORMATION FROM OPM.—The Office shall timely provide the Postal Service with such information as necessary to conduct the Health Benefits Education Program.

“(B) COORDINATION WITH OPM.—The Postal Service shall coordinate with the Office, in consultation with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the Social Security Administration, to obtain and confirm the accuracy of information as the Postal Service determines to be necessary to conduct the Health Benefits Education Program.

“(5) NAVIGATOR ACTIVITIES.—

“(A) ACTIVITIES.—The activities described in this paragraph, with respect to Program plans and the health care options available under the Program, are the following:

“(i) Educational activities for annuitants and employees of the Postal Service to raise awareness of the availability of Program plans and requirements for enrolling in such plans, including requirements to be entitled to Medicare part A and enroll in Medicare part B.

“(ii) Distribution of fair and impartial information concerning enrollment in such plans.

“(iii) Facilitation of enrollment in such plans.

“(iv) Provision of information in a manner that is culturally and linguistically appropriate to the needs of the population being served by the Program plans.

“(B) STANDARDS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Postal Service shall establish standards for navigators carrying out the activities under this paragraph to—

“(I) engage in the navigator activities described in subparagraph (A); and

“(II) avoid conflicts of interest.

“(ii) CONTENTS.—The standards established under clause (i) shall provide that a navigator may not—

“(I) be a health insurance carrier; or

“(II) receive any consideration directly or indirectly from any health insurance carrier in connection with the enrollment of any individual in a Program plan.

“(C) FAIR AND IMPARTIAL INFORMATION AND SERVICES.—The Postal Service, in consultation as necessary with the Office and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, shall develop standards to ensure that information made available by navigators under this paragraph is fair, accurate, and impartial.

“(6) REGULATIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this section, the Postmaster General shall issue regulations to establish the Health Benefits Education Program required under this subsection.

“(B) CONTENTS.—The regulations issued under subparagraph (A) shall include—

“(i) provisions for the notification of Postal Service annuitants and Postal Service employees about the Program, including a description of the available health benefits options, including a process for notifying Postal Service employees who become eligible for Medicare part B and Postal Service Medicare covered annuitants about their choices;

“(ii) provisions for notifying Postal Service annuitants, Postal Service employees, and their family members of the requirements under subsection (e) to enroll in Medicare as a condition of eligibility to enroll in the Program; and

“(iii) a process, developed in consultation with the Social Security Administration, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and the Office, for addressing any inquiry from Postal Service annuitants and Postal Service employees about the Program or Medicare enrollment.”.

(2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) SERVICE BENEFIT PLANS.—Section 8903(1) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking “two levels of benefits” and inserting “at least 2 levels of benefits for enrollees under this chapter generally and at least 2 levels of benefits for enrollees under the Postal Service Health Benefits Program established under section 8903c”.

(B) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections for chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 8903b the following:

“8903c. Postal Service Health Benefits Program.”.

(b) COORDINATION WITH MEDICARE.—

(1) PART B SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD.—Section 1837 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395p) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(o)(1) In the case of an individual who—

“(A) as of January 1, 2024, is—

“(i) a Postal Service annuitant who is entitled to benefits under part A of title XVIII of the Social Security Act, but excluding an individual who is eligible to enroll under such part under section 1818 of such Act or 1818A of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395i–2, 1395i–2a); or

“(ii) a member of family (as defined in section 8901(5) of title 5, United States Code) of a Postal Service annuitant and is entitled to benefits under part A of title XVIII of the Social Security Act, but excluding an individual who is eligible to enroll under such part under section 1818 of such Act or 1818A of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395i–2, 1395i–2a); and

“(B) is not enrolled under this part, the individual may elect to be enrolled under this part during a special enrollment period during the 6-month period beginning on April 1, 2024.

“(2) In this subsection, the term ‘Postal Service annuitant’ means an annuitant enrolled in a health benefits plan under chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, whose Government contribution is required to be paid under section 8906(g)(2) of such title.”.

(2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) PART A ENROLLMENT.—Section 1818(c) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395i–2(c)) is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “(except subsection (f) thereof)” and inserting “(except subsections (f) and (o) thereof)”.

(B) COVERAGE PERIOD UNDER PART B.—Section 1838 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395g) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(i) Notwithstanding subsection (a), in the case of an individual who enrolls during a special enrollment period pursuant to section 1837(o), the coverage period shall begin on January 1, 2025.”.

(3) TREATMENT OF PART B LATE ENROLLMENT PENALTY FOR INDIVIDUALS ENROLLING DURING SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD.—Section 1839(e) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395r(e)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “(as defined in paragraph (3)(A))” and by inserting “(as defined in paragraph (3)(A)(i)). The Secretary shall enter into an agreement with the United States Postal Service under which the United States Postal Service agrees to pay on a quarterly or other periodic basis to the Secretary (to be deposited in the Treasury to the credit of the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund) an amount equal to the amount of the part B late enrollment premium increases with respect to the premiums for eligible individuals (as defined in paragraph (3)(A)(ii)).”; and

(B) by amending paragraph (3)(A) to read as follows:

“(A) The term ‘eligible individual’ means an individual who is enrolled under this part B and who—

“(i) in the case of an agreement entered into under the first sentence of paragraph (1), is within a class of individuals specified in such agreement; and

“(ii) in the case of an agreement entered into under the second sentence of paragraph (1), is so enrolled under this part pursuant to the special enrollment period under section 1837(o).”.

(4) PART D EGWP CONTRACTING CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1860D–22(b) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–132(b)) is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, and shall be applied in a manner to facilitate the offering of prescription drug benefits under a Program plan under section 8903c of title 5, United States Code, as required under subsection (h)(2) of such section, through employment-based retiree health coverage through: (1) a prescription drug plan; or (2) contracts between such a Program plan and the PDP sponsor of such a prescription drug plan.”.

(c) INFORMATION SHARING AND DISSEMINATION REQUIRED FOR SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD AND ENFORCEMENT OF PART B ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the terms “Medicare part A”, “Medicare part B”, “Office”, “Postal Service”, and “Postal Service annuitant” have the meanings given those terms in section 8903c of title 5, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

(2) INFORMATION SHARING BY OPM.—The Office shall, by regulation, establish a process for providing such information as is necessary to the Social Security Administration regarding Postal Service annuitants (and the family members of such annuitants) who may be eligible to enroll under Medicare part B during the special enrollment period described in subsection (o) of section 1837 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395p), as added by subsection (b).

(3) INFORMATION SHARING BY SSA.—The Social Security Administration shall provide to the Office and the Postal Service information regarding whether a Postal Service annuitant, or a family member of such an annuitant, is entitled to benefits under Medicare part A and enrolled under Medicare part B, to assist the Office and the Postal Service in determining—

(A) which Postal Service annuitants, and family members of such annuitants, are eligible to enroll under Medicare part B during the special enrollment period described in paragraph (2); and

(B) whether Postal Service annuitants, and family members of such annuitants, satisfy the enrollment requirements described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 8903c(e) of title 5, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

(4) DETERMINATION AND DISSEMINATION.—The Office shall determine which Postal Service annuitants are eligible to enroll under Medicare part B during the special enrollment period described in paragraph (2) and provide such information to the Social Security Administration, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and the Postal Service.

(d) FUNDING.—

(1) CMS APPROPRIATION.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to “Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services—Program Management”, out of any monies in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$7,500,000 for fiscal year 2022, to remain available until expended, for purposes of carrying out this section, including the amendments made by this section.

(2) SSA APPROPRIATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Social Security Administration, out of any monies in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$16,000,000 for fiscal year 2022, to remain available until the date that is 1 year after the last day of the special enrollment period described in subsection (c)(2), for purposes of carrying out this section, with the exception of carrying out subsection (c)(3)(B), including the amendments made by this section.

(B) RELATION TO OTHER APPROPRIATION.—The amounts appropriated under subparagraph (A)

shall be in addition to the Social Security Administration's Limitation on Administrative Expenditure appropriations.

(3) OPM APPROPRIATION.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Office of Personnel Management, out of any monies in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$70,500,000 for fiscal year 2022, to remain available until expended, for purposes of carrying out this section, including the amendments made by this section.

(4) FUNDS CREDITED BY POSTAL SERVICE.—The United States Postal Service shall credit to the Treasury from the Postal Service Fund in fiscal year 2022 an amount equal to the sum of the amounts appropriated under paragraphs (1), (2), and (3).

(5) REIMBURSEMENT FOR PERIODIC SSA DATA SHARING.—

(A) INTER-AGENCY AGREEMENT.—The Commissioner of Social Security shall enter into an agreement with the Director of the Office under which the Director pays the Commissioner from the Postal Service administrative reserve the full costs (including systems and administrative costs) of providing the information described in subsection (c)(3)(B).

(B) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Director of the Office—

(i) shall report the amount paid under subparagraph (A) annually to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives; and

(ii) may satisfy the requirement under clause (i) by including the amount paid under subparagraph (A) in any other annual report submitted to Congress.

SEC. 102. USPS FAIRNESS ACT.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the "USPS Fairness Act".

(b) RATIONAL BENEFITS FUNDING AND ACCOUNTING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 8909a of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

"(d)(1) Not later than June 30, 2026, and by June 30 of each succeeding year, the Office shall compute, for the most recently concluded fiscal year, the amount (if any) that Government contributions required to be paid from the Fund under section 8906(g)(2)(A) exceeded the estimated net claims costs under the enrollment of the individuals described in section 8906(g)(2)(A).

"(2) Not later than September 30 of each year in which the Office makes a computation under paragraph (1), the United States Postal Service shall pay into the Fund the amount (if any) of the excess computed under such paragraph.

"(e) Any computation required under section 3654(b) of title 39 shall be based on—

"(1) the net present value of the future net claims costs with respect to—

"(A) current annuitants of the United States Postal Service as of the end of the fiscal year ending on September 30 of the relevant reporting year; and

"(B) current employees of the United States Postal Service who would, as of September 30 of that year—

"(i) be eligible to become annuitants pursuant to section 8901(3)(A)(i) or (ii); and

"(ii) if they were retired as of that date, meet the criteria for coverage of annuitants under section 8905(b);

"(2) economic and actuarial methods and assumptions consistent with the methods and assumptions used in determining the Postal surplus or supplemental liability under section 8348(h); and

"(3) any other methods and assumptions, including a health care cost trend rate, that the Director of the Office determines to be appropriate.

"(f) After consultation with the United States Postal Service, the Office shall promulgate any

regulations the Office determines necessary under this subsection.

"(g) For purposes of this section, the term 'estimated net claims costs' shall mean the difference between—

"(1) the sum of—

"(A) the estimated costs incurred by a carrier in providing health services to, paying for health services provided to, or reimbursing expenses for health services provided to, annuitants of the United States Postal Service and any other persons covered under the enrollment of such annuitants; and

"(B) an amount of indirect expenses reasonably allocable to the provision, payment, or reimbursement described in subparagraph (A), as determined by the Office; and

"(2) the amount withheld from the annuity of or paid by annuitants of the United States Postal Service under section 8906."

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The heading of section 8909a of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking "Benefit" and inserting "Benefits".

(c) APPLICATION.—

(1) CANCELLATION OF PAYMENTS.—Any payment required from the Postal Service under section 8909a of title 5, United States Code, as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act that remains unpaid as of such date of enactment is canceled.

(2) EFFECT OF THIS ACT.—In any determination relating to the future liability for retiree health benefits of the United States Postal Service or the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund, the Office of Personnel Management shall take into account the actual and reasonably expected effects of this Act.

(d) USE OF FUNDS FROM SALE OF REAL PROPERTY FOR CERTAIN PAYMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 29 of title 39, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§2903. Use of funds from sale of property

"In the event that the Postal Service permanently ceases operations, any funds derived from the sale of any real property owned by the Postal Service shall be used to pay any outstanding liability with respect to the salaries and expenses of any Postal Service employee. The balance of any remaining funds shall be deposited into the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund established under section 8909a of title 5."

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections of such chapter is amended by adding after the item relating to section 2902 the following new item:

"2903. Use of funds from sale of property."

SEC. 103. NONPOSTAL SERVICES.

(a) NONPOSTAL SERVICES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Part IV of title 39, United States Code, is amended by adding after chapter 36 the following:

"CHAPTER 37—NONPOSTAL SERVICES

"Sec.

"3701. Purpose.

"3702. Definitions.

"3703. Postal Service program for State governments.

"3704. Postal Service program for other Government agencies.

"3705. Transparency and accountability for nonpostal services.

"§3701. Purpose

"The purpose of this chapter is to enable the Postal Service to increase its net revenues through specific nonpostal products and services that are expressly authorized by this chapter.

"§3702. Definitions

"In this chapter—

"(1) the term 'nonpostal services' is limited to services offered by the Postal Service that are expressly authorized by this chapter and are not postal products or services;

"(2) the term 'costs attributable' has the meaning given such term in section 3631;

"(3) the term 'year' means a fiscal year;

"(4) the term 'local government' means a county, municipality, city, town, township, local public authority, school district, special district, intrastate district, council of governments, or regional or interstate government entity;

"(5) the term 'State government' includes the government of the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any other territory or possession of the United States;

"(6) the term 'tribal government' means the government of an Indian tribe, as that term is defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304); and

"(7) the term 'United States', when used in a geographical sense, means the States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any other territory or possession of the United States.

"§3703. Postal Service program for State governments

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, the Postal Service may establish a program to enter into agreements with an agency of any State government, local government, or tribal government to provide property or nonpostal services to the public on behalf of such agencies for non-commercial purposes, but only if—

"(1) such property or nonpostal services—

"(A) provide enhanced value to the public, such as by lowering the cost or raising the quality of such services or by making such services more accessible;

"(B) do not interfere with or detract from the value of postal services, including by—

"(i) harming the cost and efficiency of postal services; and

"(ii) unreasonably restricting access to postal retail service, such as customer waiting time and access to parking; and

"(2) such agreements provide a net contribution to the Postal Service, defined as reimbursement that covers at least 100 percent of the costs attributable to all property and nonpostal services provided under each relevant agreement in each year, except that agreements determined to be substantially similar by the Postal Service with the concurrence of the Postal Regulatory Commission shall be reviewed based on their collective revenue and costs attributable.

"(b) PUBLIC NOTICE.—Not more than 90 days after offering a service under the program, the Postal Service shall make available to the public on its website—

"(1) the agreement with the agency regarding such service; and

"(2) a business plan that describes the specific property or nonpostal service to be provided, the enhanced value to the public, and terms of reimbursement to the Postal Service.

"(c) APPROVAL REQUIRED.—The Postal Service may not establish the program under subsection (a) unless the Governors of the Postal Service approve such program by a recorded vote that is publicly disclosed on the Postal Service website with a majority of the Governors then in office voting for approval.

"(d) CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.—Subsection (b) shall not be construed as requiring the Postal Service to disclose to the public any information—

"(1) described in section 410(c); or

"(2) exempt from public disclosure under section 552(b) of title 5.

"§3704. Postal Service program for other Government agencies

"The Postal Service may establish a program to provide property and nonpostal services to

other Government agencies within the meaning of section 411, but only if such program provides a net contribution to the Postal Service, defined as reimbursement that covers at least 100 percent of the costs attributable for property and nonpostal services provided by the Postal Service in each year to such agencies.

“§3705. Transparency and accountability for nonpostal services

“(a) ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMISSION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the last day of each year, the Postal Service shall submit to the Postal Regulatory Commission a report that analyzes costs, revenues, rates, and quality of service for each agreement or substantially similar set of agreements for the provision of property or nonpostal services under section 3703 or the program as a whole under section 3704, and any other nonpostal service authorized under this chapter, using such methodologies as the Commission may prescribe, and in sufficient detail to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of this chapter.

“(2) SUPPORTING MATTER.—A report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include any nonpublic annex, the working papers, and any other supporting matter of the Postal Service and the Inspector General related to the information submitted in such report.

“(b) CONTENT AND FORM OF REPORT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Postal Regulatory Commission shall, by regulation, prescribe the content and form of the report required under subsection (a). In prescribing such regulations, the Commission shall give due consideration to—

“(A) providing the public with timely, adequate information to assess compliance;

“(B) avoiding unnecessary or unwarranted administrative effort and expense on the part of the Postal Service; and

“(C) protecting the confidentiality of information that is commercially sensitive or is exempt from public disclosure under section 552(b) of title 5.

“(2) REVISED REQUIREMENTS.—The Commission may, on its own motion or on request of any interested party, initiate proceedings to improve the quality, accuracy, or completeness of Postal Service data required by the Commission if—

“(A) the attribution of costs or revenues to property, products, or services under this chapter has become significantly inaccurate or can be significantly improved;

“(B) the quality of service data provided to the Commission for a report under this chapter has become significantly inaccurate or can be significantly improved; or

“(C) such revisions are, in the judgment of the Commission, otherwise necessitated by the public interest.

“(c) AUDITS.—The Inspector General shall regularly audit the data collection systems and procedures used in collecting information and preparing the report required under subsection (a). The results of any such audit shall be submitted to the Postal Service and the Postal Regulatory Commission.

“(d) CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Postal Service determines that any document or portion of a document, or other matter, which it provides to the Postal Regulatory Commission in a nonpublic annex under this section contains information described in section 410(c), or exempt from public disclosure under section 552(b) of title 5, the Postal Service shall, at the time of providing such matter to the Commission, notify the Commission of its determination, in writing, and describe with particularity the documents (or portions of documents) or other matter for which confidentiality is sought and the reasons therefor.

“(2) TREATMENT.—Any information or other matter described in paragraph (1) to which the

Commission gains access under this section shall be subject to paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 504(g) in the same way as if the Commission had received notification with respect to such matter under section 504(g)(1).

“(e) ANNUAL COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION.—

“(1) OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT.—Upon receiving a report required under subsection (a), the Postal Regulatory Commission shall promptly—

“(A) provide an opportunity for comment on such report by any interested party; and

“(B) appoint an officer of the Commission to represent the interests of the general public.

“(2) DETERMINATION OF COMPLIANCE OR NONCOMPLIANCE.—Not later than 90 days after receiving a report required under subsection (a), the Postal Regulatory Commission shall make a written determination as to whether the activities carried out pursuant to this chapter during the applicable year were or were not in compliance with the provisions of this chapter. For purposes of this paragraph, any case in which the requirements for coverage of costs attributable have not been met shall be considered to be a case of noncompliance. If, with respect to a year, no instance of noncompliance is found to have occurred, the determination shall be to that effect. Such determination of noncompliance shall be included with the annual compliance determination required under section 3653.

“(3) NONCOMPLIANCE.—If a timely written determination of noncompliance is made under paragraph (2), the Postal Regulatory Commission shall take appropriate action. If the requirements for coverage of costs attributable specified by this chapter are not met, the Commission shall, within 60 days after the determination, prescribe remedial action to restore compliance as soon as practicable, including the full restoration of revenue shortfalls during the following year. The Commission may order the Postal Service to discontinue a nonpostal service under section 3703 that persistently fails to meet cost coverage requirements.

“(4) DELIBERATE NONCOMPLIANCE.—In the case of deliberate noncompliance by the Postal Service with the requirements of this chapter, the Postal Regulatory Commission may order, based on the nature, circumstances, extent, and seriousness of the noncompliance, a fine (in the amount specified by the Commission in its order) for each incidence of such noncompliance. All receipts from fines imposed under this subsection shall be deposited in the general fund of the Treasury.

“(f) REGULATIONS REQUIRED.—The Postal Regulatory Commission shall issue such regulations as are necessary to carry out this section.

“(g) EXPERIMENTAL PRODUCT AUTHORITY.—The Postal Service may conduct market tests of agreements pursuant to section 3703 and section 3704 of this chapter subject to the same terms and conditions described in section 3641 of this title. For the purposes of a market test, the cost coverage requirements in sections 3703 and 3704 of this chapter shall not apply.”

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of chapters for part IV of title 39, United States Code, is amended by adding after the item relating to chapter 36 the following:

“37. Nonpostal services 3701”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) SECTION 404.—Section 404(e) of title 39, United States Code, is amended in paragraph (2), by inserting after “subsection” the following: “, or any nonpostal products or services authorized by chapter 37”.

(2) SECTION 411.—The last sentence of section 411 of title 39, United States Code, is amended by striking “including reimbursability” and inserting “including reimbursability within the limitations of chapter 37”.

(3) TREATMENT OF EXISTING NONPOSTAL SERVICES.—All individual nonpostal services, provided directly or through licensing, that are continued pursuant to section 404(e) of title 39,

United States Code, shall be considered to be expressly authorized by chapter 37 of such title (as added by subsection (a)(1)) and shall be subject to the requirements of section 3705, subsections (a) through (d).

TITLE II—POSTAL SERVICE OPERATIONAL REFORMS

SEC. 201. PERFORMANCE TARGETS AND TRANSPARENCY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter VII of chapter 36 of title 39, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 3691 the following:

“§3692. Performance targets and transparency

“(a) PERFORMANCE TARGETS.—Each year, to ensure that mail service for postal customers meets the service standards for market-dominant products, established under section 3691, the Postal Service shall—

“(1) not later than 60 days after the beginning of the fiscal year in which they will apply, establish and provide to the Postal Regulatory Commission reasonable targets for performance; and

“(2) provide the previous fiscal year’s performance targets in its Annual Compliance Report to the Postal Regulatory Commission for evaluation of compliance.

“(b) POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION DETERMINATION OF CERTAIN PERFORMANCE INFORMATION.—Not later than 90 days after first receiving the performance targets under subsection (a)(1), the Postal Regulatory Commission shall provide to the Postal Service—

“(1) requirements for the Postal Service to publish nationwide, regional, and local delivery area performance information in accordance with subsection (c)(2) that—

“(A) are consistent with the organizational structure of the delivery network of the Postal Service (including at the District and Area organizational levels, or the functional equivalents, and, to the extent practicable, at the U.S. ZIP Code Area level);

“(B) reflect the most granular geographic level of performance information appropriate for the Postal Service to publish; and

“(C) includes time period segments for the published geographic levels to satisfy the publishing requirements of subparagraphs (A) and (C) of subsection (c)(2); and

“(2) recommendations for any modifications to the Postal Service’s measurement systems necessary to measure and publish the performance information under subsection (c)(2) that the Postal Regulatory Commission deems relevant.

“(c) PUBLIC PERFORMANCE DASHBOARD.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Postal Service shall develop and maintain a publicly available Website with an interactive web-tool that provides performance information for market-dominant products that is updated on a weekly basis.

“(2) PERFORMANCE INFORMATION.—The performance information provided for a market-dominant product on the Website shall include—

“(A) the type of market-dominant product;

“(B) performance information for different geographic areas, consistent with subsection (b);

“(C) performance information for different time periods, including annual, quarterly, monthly, and weekly segments;

“(D) comparisons of performance information for market-dominant products to performance information for previous time periods to facilitate identification of performance trends; and

“(E) the performance targets then in effect, and the performance targets for the previous fiscal year, as established under subsection (a)(1).

“(3) COMPREHENSIBILITY.—The Website shall include plain language descriptions of the elements required under paragraph (2) and information on the collection process, measurement methodology, completeness, accuracy, and validity of the performance information provided on the Website.

“(4) ADDRESS SEARCH FUNCTIONALITY.—The Website shall include functionality to enable a

user to search for performance information by street address, ZIP Code, or post office box.

“(5) **FORMAT.**—The Postal Service shall make the performance information provided on the Website available—

“(A) in a manner that—

“(i) presents the information required under paragraph (2) on an interactive dashboard;

“(ii) is searchable and may be sorted and filtered by the elements described in paragraph (2); and

“(iii) to the extent practicable, enables any person or entity to download in bulk—

“(I) such performance information; and

“(II) the results of a search by the elements described in paragraph (2);

“(B) under an ‘open license’ which has the meaning given that term in section 3502 of title 44; and

“(C) as an ‘open Government data asset’ and in a ‘machine-readable’ format which have the meaning given those terms in section 3502 of title 44.

“(6) **CONSULTATION.**—The Postal Service shall regularly consult with the Postal Regulatory Commission on appropriate features and information to be included on the Website.

“(7) **PUBLIC INPUT.**—The Postal Service shall—

“(A) solicit public input on the design and implementation of the Website; and

“(B) maintain a public feedback tool to ensure each feature of, and the information on, the Website is usable and understandable.

“(8) **DEADLINE.**—The Postal Service shall implement and make available to the public (and make any subsequent changes in accordance with subsection (b)) the Website not later than 60 days from the date on which the Postal Service receives the requirements and recommendations from the Postal Regulatory Commission under subsection (b), and shall continuously update such information on the Website as required by subsection (b).

“(9) **AVAILABILITY.**—A link and plain language description of the Website shall be made available on any webpage where performance targets and measurements established under subsection (a)(1) are made available to the public.

“(10) **REPORTING.**—The Postal Service, the Postmaster General, or the Board, as applicable, shall reference the dashboard described in paragraph (5)(A)(i) in the Annual Performance Plan under section 2803, the Annual Performance Report under section 2804, and the Annual Report under section 2402.

“(11) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this subsection—

“(A) **PERFORMANCE INFORMATION.**—The term ‘performance information’ means the objective external performance measurements established under section 3691(b)(1)(D).

“(B) **WEBSITE.**—The term ‘Website’ means the website described in paragraph (1).”

(b) **TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections for chapter 36 of title 39, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3691 the following:

“3692. Performance targets and transparency.”.

SEC. 202. INTEGRATED DELIVERY NETWORK.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 101(b) of title 39, United States Code, is amended by inserting before “The Postal Service” the following: “The Postal Service shall maintain an integrated network for the delivery of market-dominant and competitive products (as defined in chapter 36 of this title). Delivery shall occur at least six days a week, except during weeks that include a Federal holiday, in emergency situations, such as natural disasters, or in geographic areas where the Postal Service has established a policy of delivering mail fewer than six days a week as of the date of enactment of the Postal Service Reform Act of 2022.”.

(b) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in subsection (a) or the amendment made by such sub-

section is intended to alter or amend the requirements of chapters 20 or 36 of title 39, United States Code, and related implementing regulations, including provisions relating to costing, accounting, or rates.

SEC. 203. REVIEW OF POSTAL SERVICE COST ATTRIBUTION GUIDELINES.

Not later than the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Postal Regulatory Commission shall initiate a review of the regulations issued pursuant to sections 3633(a) and 3652(a)(1) of title 39, United States Code, to determine whether revisions are appropriate to ensure that all direct and indirect costs attributable to competitive and market-dominant products are properly attributed to those products, including by considering the underlying methodologies in determining cost attribution and considering options to revise such methodologies. If the Commission determines, after notice and opportunity for public comment, that revisions are appropriate, the Commission shall make modifications or adopt alternative methodologies as necessary.

SEC. 204. RURAL NEWSPAPER SUSTAINABILITY.

Section 3626(h) of title 39, United States Code, is amended by striking “10 percent” and inserting “50 percent”.

SEC. 205. FUNDING OF POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subsection (d) of section 504 of title 39, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(d)(1) Not later than September 1 of each fiscal year (beginning with fiscal year 2022), the Postal Regulatory Commission shall submit to the Postal Service a budget of the Commission’s expenses, including expenses for facilities, supplies, compensation, and employee benefits, for the following fiscal year. Any such budget shall be deemed approved as submitted if the Governors fail to adjust the budget in accordance with paragraph (2).

“(2)(A) Not later than 30 days after receiving a budget under paragraph (1), the Governors holding office, by unanimous written decision, may adjust the total amount of funding requested in such budget. Nothing in this subparagraph may be construed to authorize the Governors to adjust any activity proposed to be funded by the budget.

“(B) If the Governors adjust the budget under subparagraph (A), the Postal Regulatory Commission shall adjust the suballocations within such budget to reflect the total adjustment made by the Governors. The budget shall be deemed approved on the date the Commission makes any such adjustments. The Commission may make further adjustments to the suballocations within such budget as necessary.

“(3) Expenses incurred under any budget approved under this subsection shall be paid out of the Postal Service Fund established under section 2003.”.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—Title 39, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 2003(e), by striking “(B) all expenses of the Postal Regulatory Commission, subject to the availability of amounts appropriated under section 504(d);” and inserting “(B) all expenses of the Postal Regulatory Commission, pursuant to section 504(d);”; and

(2) in section 2009—

(A) by striking “, (2)” and inserting “, and (2);”;

(B) by striking “, and (3) the Postal Regulatory Commission requests to be appropriated, out of the Postal Service Fund, under section 504(d) of this title”.

SEC. 206. FLATS OPERATIONS STUDY AND REFORM.

(a) **FLATS OPERATIONS STUDY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Postal Regulatory Commission, in consultation with the Inspector General of the United States Postal Service, shall conduct a study to—

(A) comprehensively identify the causes of inefficiencies in the collection, sorting, transportation, and delivery of Flats; and

(B) quantify the effects of the volume trends, investments decisions, excess capacity, and operational inefficiencies of the Postal Service on the direct and indirect costs of the Postal Service that are attributable to Flats.

(2) **POSTAL SERVICE ASSISTANCE.**—For the purposes of carrying out the study under paragraph (1), the Postal Service shall, upon request by the Postal Regulatory Commission, consult with the Postal Regulatory Commission and provide—

(A) access to Postal Service facilities to personnel of the Postal Regulatory Commission; and

(B) information and records necessary to conduct such study.

(3) **REPORT.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Postal Regulatory Commission shall submit to Congress and the Postmaster General a report on the findings of the study conducted under paragraph (1).

(4) **FLATS DEFINED.**—In this subsection, the term “Flats” means products that meet the physical standards described in the Domestic Mail Manual (as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act) for Flats mail for any class of mail.

(b) **FLATS OPERATIONS REFORM.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than six months after the date on which the Postal Regulatory Commission submits the report described in subsection (a)(3), the Postal Service shall—

(A) develop and implement a plan to remedy each inefficiency identified in the study conducted under subsection (a)(1) to the extent practicable; and

(B) if the Postal Service determines that remedying any such inefficiency is not practicable, provide to Congress and the Postal Regulatory Commission an explanation why remedying such inefficiency is not practicable, including whether it may become practicable to remedy such inefficiency at a later time.

(2) **IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS.**—Prior to implementing the plan described in paragraph (1)—

(A) the Postal Regulatory Commission must approve the plan; and

(B) the Postal Service shall provide an adequate opportunity for public comment on the plan.

(3) **COMPLETION NOTICE.**—On the date on which the plan described in paragraph (1) is fully implemented, as determined by the Postmaster General, the Postmaster General shall submit to Congress and the Postal Regulatory Commission a written notice of such implementation.

(c) **SUBSEQUENT RATE ADJUSTMENTS.**—During the five-year period beginning on the date on which the Postal Regulatory Commission submits a report under subsection (a)(3), the Postal Service, when making any adjustment to the rate of a market-dominant product (as defined in section 102 of title 39, United States Code), shall consider the findings of such report and, after the plan described in subsection (b)(1) is implemented, the plan’s efficacy in remedying the inefficiencies identified in the study conducted under subsection (a)(1).

SEC. 207. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 240 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every six months thereafter, the Postmaster General shall submit to the President, the Postal Regulatory Commission, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, and the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives a report on the operations and financial condition of the Postal Service during the six-month period ending 60 days before the date on which the Postmaster General submits such report.

(b) **CONTENTS.**—Each report submitted under this section shall include updates, details of changes from previous standards and requirements, and assessments of progress being made

on the operations and financial condition of the Postal Service, including—

(1) the actual mail and package volume growth relative to any mail or package volume growth projections previously made or relied upon by the Postal Service, including a discussion of the reasons for the differences in projections and the associated adjustments being made;

(2) the effect of pricing changes on product volume for market-dominant and competitive products, and associated revenue effects on financial projections, including a discussion of the reasons behind the differences in projections and associated adjustments being made;

(3) customer use of network distribution centers and processing and distribution centers;

(4) the status of the USPS Connect program and revenue effects of the program on the financial projections;

(5) the use of Priority Mail, Priority Mail Express, First-Class Package Service, and Parcel Select services (as such terms are defined in the Mail Classification Schedule as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act) among customers and associated revenue effects;

(6) the use of USPS Connect Returns service among customers, and associated costs and revenue effects;

(7) the use of USPS E-Commerce Marketplace among customers, and associated costs and revenue effects;

(8) updates on the reliability, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness of the transportation network, including the manner in which ground transportation is utilized over air transportation for types of market-dominant products and competitive products;

(9) a review of efforts to enhance employee training, safety, and wellbeing, including associated effects on employee recruitment, satisfaction, and retention;

(10) a review of efforts being made to improve employee allocation, including changes of non-career employees to career status, and any associated impacts to operational expenses and processing, transportation, and delivery efficiency;

(11) the rate of planned investment into Postal Service processing, transportation, and delivery equipment and infrastructure for market-dominant and competitive products, and a review of any associated effects on operational expenses and efficiency;

(12) changes to network distribution centers and the expansion of regional distribution centers, including costs associated with the changes and any realized reduction in operational expenses or improved resource efficiencies;

(13) a review of the ability of the Postal Service to meet performance targets established under section 3692(a)(1) of title 39, United States Code;

(14) a discussion of the progress of the Postal Service in achieving any new, self-funded investments, including the amounts realized and expended to date, and a discussion of the reasons behind any disparities in the assumptions regarding the expected progress of the Postal Service getting new, self-funded investments to accommodate changes; and

(15) any other information the Postal Service determines relevant, such as barriers or unanticipated events, in order to help the Postal Regulatory Commission, Congress, the President, and the American public evaluate the success or difficulties faced by the Postal Service in implementing the reform plan.

(c) CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The report required under this subsection shall be submitted in a form that excludes any proprietary or confidential information and trade secrets.

(2) **NOTIFICATION.**—If the Postal Service determines that any information must be excluded under paragraph (1), the Postal Service shall, at the time of submitting the report, notify the President, the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives, the Com-

mittee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, and the Postal Regulatory Commission in writing of its determination and describe in detail the information for which confidentiality is sought and the reasons therefor.

(3) **ANNEXES.**—The Postal Service shall submit to the persons and entities notified under paragraph (2) any information excluded under paragraph (1) in an annex that shall be treated as confidential in accordance with paragraph (4).

(4) **TREATMENT.**—No person may, with respect to any information which such person receives under paragraph (4)—

(A) use such information for purposes other than the purposes for which it is supplied; or

(B) permit any person or entity other than a person or entity notified under paragraph (2), or the staff thereof, to have access to any such information.

(d) **TERMINATION.**—This section shall terminate on the date that is five years after the date on which the first report required by this section is submitted.

SEC. 208. POSTAL SERVICE TRANSPORTATION SECTION POLICY REVISIONS.

Section 101(f) of title 39, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “prompt and economical” and inserting “prompt, economical, consistent, and reliable”;

(2) by inserting after “all mail” the following: “in a manner that increases operational efficiency and reduces complexity”;

(3) by inserting “cost-effective” after “to achieve”;

(4) by inserting “also” after “Nation shall”.

SEC. 209. USPS INSPECTOR GENERAL OVERSIGHT OF POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 8G of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2), by striking “the Postal Regulatory Commission,”; and

(2) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “(2) In carrying” and inserting “(2)(A) In carrying”; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) In carrying out the duties and responsibilities specified in this Act, the Inspector General of the United States Postal Service shall function as the Inspector General for the Postal Regulatory Commission, and shall have equal responsibility over the United States Postal Service and the Postal Regulatory Commission. The Commission shall comply with the Inspector General’s oversight as if the Commission were a designated Federal entity under subsection (a)(2) and as if the Inspector General were the inspector general of the Commission. The Governors of the Postal Service shall not direct oversight activities for the Postal Regulatory Commission.”;

(B) in paragraph (3)(A)(i), by inserting “pertaining to the United States Postal Service” after “subpoenas,”;

(C) in paragraph (3)(B)(i), by inserting “and the Postal Regulatory Commission” after “United States Postal Service”;

(D) in paragraph (3)(C), by inserting “or the Postal Regulatory Commission” after “Governors”;

(E) by redesignating paragraphs (4), (5), and (6) as paragraphs (5), (6), and (7), respectively; and

(F) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) For activities pertaining to the Postal Regulatory Commission, sections 4, 5, 6 (other than subsection (g) thereof), and 7 of this Act shall be applied by substituting the term ‘head of the Postal Regulatory Commission’ for ‘head of the establishment’.”.

(b) **APPOINTMENT AND REMOVAL.**—Section 202 of title 39, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (e)(1), by striking “The Governors shall appoint” and inserting “The Gov-

ernors and the members of the Postal Regulatory Commission shall appoint, by a favorable vote of a majority of the Governors in office and of a majority of the members of the Commission in office,”; and

(2) in subsection (e)(3), by inserting “and 3 members of the Postal Regulatory Commission” after “at least 7 Governors”.

(c) SAVINGS PROVISION.—

(1) **PERSONNEL, DOCUMENTS, ASSETS.**—All personnel, documents, assets, unexpended balances of appropriations, and obligations of the Inspector General for the Postal Regulatory Commission shall transfer to the Inspector General of the Postal Service on the effective date of this section.

(2) **LEGAL DOCUMENTS.**—Any order, determination, rule, regulation, permit, grant, loan, contract, agreement, certificate, license, or privilege that has been issued, made, granted, or allowed to become effective by the Inspector General of the Postal Regulatory Commission that is in effect on the effective date of this section shall continue in effect according to their terms until modified, terminated, superseded, set aside, or revoked in accordance with law.

(3) **PROCEEDINGS.**—This section and the amendments made by this section shall not affect any proceeding pending on the effective date of this section before the Inspector General of the Postal Regulatory Commission, but such proceeding shall be continued by the Inspector General of the Postal Service, at the discretion of that Inspector General. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to prohibit the discontinuance or modification of any such proceeding under the same terms and conditions and to the same extent that the proceeding could have been discontinued or modified if this section and those amendments had not been enacted.

(4) **SUITS.**—This section and the amendments made by this section shall not affect any suit commenced before the effective date of this section, and in any such suit, proceeding shall be had, appeals taken, and judgments rendered in the same manner and with the same effect as if this section or such amendments had not been enacted.

(5) **REFERENCES.**—Any reference in any other Federal law, Executive order, rule, regulation, or delegation of authority, or any document relating to the Inspector General of the Postal Regulatory Commission shall be deemed to refer to the Inspector General of the United States Postal Service.

(d) **TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 504 of title 39, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (h).

(e) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—This section and the amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

TITLE III—SEVERABILITY

SEC. 301. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this Act or any amendment made by this Act, or the application of a provision of this Act or an amendment made by this Act to any person or circumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act, and the application of the provisions to any person or circumstance, shall not be affected by the holding.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill, as amended, shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Reform or their respective designees.

After 1 hour of debate, it shall be in order to consider the further amendment printed in House Report 117-243, if offered by the Member designated in the report, which shall be considered read, shall be separately debatable for

the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to a demand for a division of the question.

The gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials on H.R. 3076.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3076, the Postal Service Reform Act, which I introduced along with my distinguished ranking member, Mr. COMER.

I am proud to say that our bill, the bill before us today, is the result of a truly bipartisan effort from the beginning until our time on the floor today. We have jointly over 100 cosponsors almost evenly divided between Democrats and Republicans. And according to the nonpartisan CBO, this bill actually reduces Federal spending by \$1.5 billion over the next 10 years.

The administration also supports the bill's efforts to "strengthen the U.S. Postal Service."

Madam Speaker, I include the President's statement in the RECORD.

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

H.R. 3076—POSTAL SERVICE REFORM ACT OF 2022—REP. MALONEY, D-NY, AND 102 COSPONSORS

The Administration supports House passage of H.R. 3076, the Postal Service Reform Act of 2022. The United States Postal Service and its dedicated employees provide an essential public service and the critical public infrastructure for the delivery of mail and packages to all Americans in every corner of the country. The Postal Service provides crucial support to millions of Americans, including our Nation's veterans, including by ensuring their ability to vote and providing access to prescription medications. Furthermore, the Postal Service is an indispensable complement to and foundational support for American businesses and communities.

The Administration supports efforts to strengthen the United States Postal Service, including by providing Postal employees with the dignity, fair pay, and employer-provided benefits they have earned. The Administration is committed to ensuring that the Postal Service delivers the highest quality, most reliable service possible to every American. This legislation would advance these goals in several ways.

Under current law, the Postal Service is required to annually prepay future retirement health benefits, a requirement not imposed on most other public or private entities. Consistent with the President's longstanding commitment, H.R. 3076 would repeal this requirement, which unfairly and unnecessarily burdens the Postal Service.

H.R. 3076 would also establish a new, separate Postal Service Health Benefits Program (PSHBP) within the existing Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP), that integrates Postal employees and annuitants into Medicare. Making these changes would improve the Postal Service's long-run financial outlook, without sacrificing quality, affordable health coverage for Postal employees and retirees. The Administration is mindful that these reforms would impose administrative burdens on the Office of Personnel Management and FEHBP, and further, that there could be potential challenges with operationalizing Medicare integration and with ensuring ongoing funding to support administration of the new PSHBP. The Administration looks forward to working with Congress to ensure that the goals of H.R. 3076 are met in an efficient, equitable, and cost-effective manner, while safeguarding the continued stability of the FEHBP.

Finally, H.R. 3076 would establish new transparency and reporting requirements for the Postal Service and its regulator, the Postal Regulatory Commission; require the Postal Service to provide semi-annual reports to Congress on the implementation of its strategic plan; provide for a public dashboard using nationwide delivery metrics to track delivery performance; and mandate a review of the costing of competitive and non-competitive products. The Administration supports these efforts to improve accountability, reliability and transparency at the Postal Service.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. The Postal Service is one of America's most vital and respected institutions. Originally established in Article I of the Constitution, for over two centuries it has provided service across our country to every single address whether you are in an urban skyscraper or rural family farm. It binds our Nation together in ways that no agency or organization does, and it adds over 1 million new delivery points every year.

This bill is an agreement to fix some of the serious problems that have been looming over the post office for years and threatening its financial stability.

It is an agreement that was reached with input from Democrats, Republicans, the postal unions, the postal professionals, and a wide array of private- and public-sector stakeholders. Over 200 different organizations have come out in support of this bill.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD a list of the organizations in support of this bill.

ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING THE POSTAL SERVICE REFORM ACT

American Postal Workers Union; National Association of Letter Carriers; National Rural Letter Carriers Association; National Postal Mail Handlers Union; United States Postal Service; National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association; Federal Postal Coalition; National Association of Postal Supervisors; Package Coalition; Scholastic; Pitney Bowes; CVS Health; eBay; International Paper; National Retail Federation; OSM Worldwide; Pharmaceutical Care Management Association; Pirate Ship; Keep Us Posted; Consumer Action.

Sylvamo; Coalition for a 21st Century Postal Service; American Catalog Mailers Association; American Forest & Paper Asso-

ciation; Association of National Advertisers; Envelope Manufacturers Association; Greeting Card Association; Major Mailers Association; MailersHub; National Association of Presort Mailers; National Newspaper Association; National Postal Policy Council; National Retail Federation; Letter in Support of H.R. 3076, p. 2; News Media Alliance; Parcel Shippers Association; Printing United Alliance; Retail Industry Leaders Association; Saturation Mailers Coalition; The Package Coalition Companies.

4-Imprint; Action Mail Presort; AIIM; All Island Media; Amazon; Arcadia News; AT&T; Ballard Designs; Baudville Inc.; BCC Software; Belk; Biely & Shoaf Co.; Blue Kite Press; BlueCrest; Bluegrass Integrated Communications; Bluestone Perennials; BMS Direct; BMS Technologies; Business Communication Solutions (BCS); C & G Newspaper.

Calyx Flowers, Inc.; Cathedral Corporation; Centron Data Services; Christianbook, LLC; Clarity; CohereOne; Colony Brands; Montgomery Ward, Seventh Avenue, Ginny's, Midnight Velvet, Monroe & Main; The Swiss Colony, The Tender Filet; The Wisconsin Cheeseman, Country Door, Ashro; Columbia Sportswear; Community Papers of Michigan; Content Critical Solutions; Continuum | Marketing Production Services; Corporate Mailing Services; Corporate Mailing Services (CMS); Data Media Associates; Datamatix; Datapage; DataProse; Demographix Media.

Design Toscano; Direct Mail Solutions; DMM; DNI Corp.; Domtar; Doxim; EasyPost; eBay; Etsy; Everything Marketing, LLC; Fairytale Brownies; Fluence; FRONTGATE; FSSI; Gardener's Supply Company; Garnet Hill; Genesee Valley Pennysavers; Grayhair Software; Grizzly Industrial, Inc.; Hallmark Cards, Inc.; Harbor Sweets.

Hatteras/FocusOne; HC3; Holt's Cigar Company; HSN; IC Group; ICS Corp; Image Options; Impact; Improvements; IMS; Indrio Brands; Hale Groves, Pittman & Davis, Sun Harvest Citrus, StuartDM; InfoIMAGE; Inland Press; International Bridge; International Paper; Japs Olson; Johnson & Quin; JSM; Kathleen Schultz Marketing; King Solutions; K-Log; L & D Mail Masters; L&M Mail & Courier; Las Vegas Presort; Legacy Publishing Group; Lett Direct; LSC Communications; Mail Maine; Mailbox Merchants; Mailing Services of Pittsburgh; Mailing Technical Services, Inc.; Midland; Midwest Direct; National Grange; Mountain Hard Wear; MPX; MRS Mail Express; My Shipping Post; Northern Safety & Industrial Novica.

Nueske's Applewood Smoked Meats; OBRIEN; OSG; OSM Worldwide; Package Shippers Association; Path2Response; PCI Group; Pill Pack; Pirate Ship; Pitney Bowes; Pittsburgh Mailing; Plow & Hearth; PMSI; Polaris Direct, LLC; Poshmark; Potpourri Group; Cuddledown, NorthStyle, The Pyramid Collection, Serengeti, In the Company of; Dogs, Magellan's, Catalog Favorites, Young Explorers, Back in the Saddle, Whatever Works; Country Store, Expressions, Nature's Jewelry, The Stitchery, SafeFinds, TravelSmith; Chadwicks; prAna.

Premier Press; Presort Essentials, Inc.; Print Mail Solutions; Print Mannschaft; Prolist; Publishers Clearing House; Quad Inc.; Qurate Retail Group; QVC; R.R. Donnelley; Raymond Geddes & Co., Inc.; Recreation Supply Company; RevSpring; Scottish Gourmet USA LLC; Shades of Light; Shark Publications, LLC; Shippo; Signature Graphics; Silver Star Brands; Miles Kimball, Walter Drake, Easy Comforts, Exposures, As We Change; NativeRemedies, Fox Valley Traders.

SiteForm, Inc.; Smart Market, Inc; Sorel; Specialty Print Communications; Sporty's; Summit Direct; Letter in Support of H.R. 3076, p. 5; Sylvamo; Target Direct; The Bradford Exchange; Hammacher Schlemmer; The

Dingley Press; The Masters Touch; The PLD Group; The Vermont Country Store; Think Patented; TLC Management, Inc.; United Business Mail; United Mailing Services; United Postmasters and Managers of America.

Up With Paper; Upper Valley Press; Ursa Major Associates; USM Print Solutions; Value Direct, LLC; VariVerge; Whittier Mailing Products Inc.; Wiland; Wisconsin Community Papers, Town Money Saver; Wolverine Solutions Group; YRSTORE INC.; Zappos; Zulil.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, it is an agreement that contains two major reforms that together will save the post office over \$50 billion in the coming decade.

First, the bill requires postal employees to enroll in Medicare when they are eligible and retire. All postal employees have already been paying into Medicare throughout their careers, but not all retirees could or would enroll when they reached 65. So the bill simply ensures that Postal Service employees can fully utilize the benefits that they have already paid for.

Second, the bill will eliminate the unfair requirement that the Postal Service prepay its retiree health benefits for 75 years into the future. This commonsense change will help reduce the burden on the retiree health benefit fund and help it remain solvent.

□ 1430

And the bill would provide Congress and the American people with a whole new level of transparency and accountability. It would establish an online, public-facing database that shows weekly service performance information by zip code.

The bill also requires the Postal Service to continue to deliver mail 6 days a week, using an integrated network, ensuring that Americans can receive their mail and medications on weekends.

The bill also enables our Postal Service to increase revenue through non-postal services, such as selling permits to go fishing or hunting.

I would like to thank my friend, Ranking Member COMER, for his partnership on this bill and for helping to shepherd it to the floor. It has truly been a joint effort.

I would also like to thank Representatives CONNOLLY, LYNCH, LAWRENCE, and FOXX, for their work and dedication and devotion to getting this bill done.

I also would like to thank Speaker PELOSI, Majority Leader HOYER, Whip CLYBURN, all of whom supported this and helped move it to the floor.

Let's do the right thing by all Americans and pass this bill, and send it to the Senate with a large support from this body.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this historic, bipartisan bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, February 8, 2022.

Hon. CAROLYN MALONEY,
Chairwoman, Committee on Oversight and Reform,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN MALONEY: I write concerning H.R. 3076, the "Postal Service Reform Act of 2021," which was additionally referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

In recognition of the desire to expedite consideration of H.R. 3076, the Committee agrees to waive formal consideration of the bill as to provisions that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee. The Committee takes this action with the mutual understanding that we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues within our jurisdiction. I also request that you support my request to name members of the Committee to any conference committee to consider such provisions.

Finally, I would appreciate the inclusion of this letter into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 3076.

Sincerely,

FRANK PALLONE, JR.
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, February 8, 2022.

Hon. FRANK PALLONE,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN PALLONE: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 3076, the "Postal Service Reform Act." As you know, the bill was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, with an additional referral to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, due to provisions in the legislation that concern health care, including Medicare.

I thank you for allowing the Committee on Energy and Commerce to be discharged from further consideration of the bill to expedite floor consideration. This discharge in no way affects your jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill, and it will not serve as precedent for future referrals. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Energy and Commerce represented on the conference committee.

I would be pleased to include this letter and your correspondence in the Congressional Record during floor consideration to memorialize our understanding.

Sincerely,

CAROLYN B. MALONEY,
Chairwoman,
Committee on Oversight and Reform.

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, Americans hold the United States Postal Service in extremely high regard, and that is for good reason. All rely on it for our paychecks, medications, news, magazines, and correspondence with loved ones. And now, more than ever, Americans enjoy the conveniences of e-commerce no matter where they live in this great Nation.

The United States Postal Service is truly one of our prized national assets. But, as we know, the Postal Service

has faced financial trouble for many years. Service delays stemming from an unreliable and outdated delivery network, a drastic historical decrease in mail revenue, and a sustained surge in labor-intensive packages, have all contributed to the organization's struggles.

The rise and dominance of the internet has completely changed the way people shop, pay bills, and generally communicate. It has changed in ways that could not have even been envisioned in the 1970s, when Congress established today's independently operated Postal Service.

We need to face the music. The days of letters alone driving the Postal Service's revenue are not coming back. And with this national pandemic, we have seen what happens when the Postal Service is stressed to its operational limits.

The dual challenges of workforce shortages and a surge in package volume across its delivery network plainly exposed the inability for the Postal Service to adapt to modern challenges.

I stand here today, after more than a year of bipartisan work with my colleague, Chairwoman MALONEY, to call for the House to pass the bipartisan Postal Service Reform Act of 2022. This targeted bill addresses the immediate needs of the Postal Service to help it succeed into the 21st century.

H.R. 3076 bolsters Postal Service-led operational reforms that are already showing success with better revenue and delivery performance.

For example, the Postal Service saw one of the busiest holiday seasons ever this past year. And even this current White House could not ignore the fact that nearly 99 percent of consumers received their packages on time or with minimal delays.

This was done under the leadership of Postmaster General DeJoy, and in the face of constant challenges brought about by the pandemic and the current political climate.

Coupled with the Postmaster General's ambitious and comprehensive 10-year reform plan are two legislative requests impacting the Postal Service's ability to operate profitably in the years to come.

First, the well-intentioned 2006 legislative requirement that the Postal Service prefund the retiree health benefits of all future potential costs has proven unworkable and counterproductive.

H.R. 3076 repeals this requirement, while continuing to require annual payments for what is owed to postal retirees. This helps alleviate immediate financial stresses, while still protecting the workforce's earned retirement health benefits.

Secondly, the Postmaster General has sought legislation to seamlessly transition the postal workforce into Medicare upon retirement, rather than continuing as the primary payer for retiree health benefits.

Congress has told the Postal Service it has to act like a business, and this is

not something businesses do. Businesses offer secondary coverage to wrap-around Medicare benefits, and that is what Congress should allow the Postal Service to do as well. This is sensible policy in keeping with the practices of private-sector businesses.

Postal Service retirees have been paying into Medicare their entire careers and, next to the Federal Government itself, the Postal Service is the largest contributor to the Medicare Trust Fund in the Nation.

Together, these two legislative provisions requested by Postmaster General DeJoy are projected to help the Postal Service break even in the coming years.

However, I have made it clear that Republicans need to see solutions that would also allow the Postal Service to fundamentally improve its business model. Our reform bill is designed around the Postal Service's current operational reform plans.

Additionally, our bill makes sure Congress has key oversight tools. For instance, our bill establishes a public-facing, online dashboard with full local mail delivery performance data. This will provide necessary transparency into the on-time delivery of mail, and equip every House Member to conduct oversight of mail performance in their local communities.

Congress should not be caught off guard as we were in early 2020 as the pandemic accelerated performance problems in real time.

My colleagues should also consider what this targeted reform bill does not do. Our legislation does not include draconian cuts to service delivery, such as post office closures, or decreasing delivery to residences.

Our bill keeps the needs of rural Postal Service customers front and center. For instance, the bill codifies the 6-day delivery of mail and packages, which provides assurance to businesses and rural communities alike.

And importantly, our reform bill does all of this without taking the easy approach of a bailout or increasing the budget. In fact, the bill is projected to save over a billion dollars of tax funds over the next decade, over a billion dollars.

Chairwoman MALONEY and I have worked closely on receiving the input from the Postal Service and industry groups large and small, and have come to an agreement that we believe will have a real impact. I am very proud of this product, this bipartisan work.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the majority leader of this Congress.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I thank the chair for yielding, and I want to thank both Mrs. MALONEY, Congresswoman MALONEY from New York, the chair of the committee, and Mr. COMER from Kentucky.

There is nobody covering this right now. There aren't a lot of Members on the floor. This will pass in a bipartisan fashion. But this is a piece of legislation on one of the most important agencies of government, the most important services to the American people, keeping them in touch, getting them goods and services and prescription drugs that they need, being able to pay their bills.

This bill is a very important bill. The interest in it in terms of the public is belied by the fact that it is bipartisan and that, therefore, it is assumed to happen.

But I tell you, Madam Speaker, this is decades in the making. This bill has been debated—not this bill, but the reforms that this bill achieves, have been debated for decades.

As the former chair of the Treasury Postal Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee, I know full well how difficult this process has been, and it doesn't need me to say anything more about the specifics of the bill, other than to thank Chair MALONEY. She has been tenacious. She has been focused, and she has been indefatigable in this effort.

Madam Speaker, I want say that this would not have been done without Mr. COMER, because it is easy to demagogue one part of the issue or some other part of the issue. But the gentleman working together with Mrs. MALONEY has made this happen, and America will be better. The Postal Service will be better. Postal workers will be better. And the American community that utilizes and relies on the Postal Service will have greater security and greater service.

So Madam Speaker, I thank Mrs. MALONEY and Mr. COMER.

I thank all of those who worked on this bill in the committee, and I urge its overwhelming passage on a bipartisan basis.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX), who has worked steadfastly and been on board and had significant input in this bill from day one.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague from Kentucky who has done a masterful job, along with Chairwoman MALONEY, on this bill.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3076, the Postal Service Reform Act.

The Postal Service is projected to lose \$160 billion over the next 10 years as mail volume decreases and costs continue to increase. If nothing changes, the Postal Service will run out of cash in 2024 and plead for another taxpayer bailout.

This bill, coupled with Postmaster General DeJoy's 10-year reform plan, will return the Postal Service to a more sustainable path. It provides additional transparency mechanisms to

help hold the Postal Service accountable for meeting its goals and ultimately lead its management to operate more efficiently.

It also allows the Postal Service to choose the most economic reform of transportation, rather than using outdated rules that are not tailored to the modern needs of the Postal Service.

The Postal Service Reform Act allows the Postmaster General to make two financial reforms that are key to the 10-year reform plan. It allows for Medicare integration and the elimination of the pre-funding obligations.

Last Congress, I requested a recorded vote on H.R. 2382, the USPS Fairness Act, and I voted "no" on that bill because I believe it is irresponsible for the Postal Service to shed its pre-funding obligations without making needed reforms so that taxpayers are not asked to repeatedly bail it out.

Now I am pleased to say the Postal Service Reform Act delivers those substantial and badly needed reforms to the Postal Service, such that its fiscal stability will be restored. Even the Congressional Budget Office notes that this bill would save taxpayers nearly \$1.5 billion over the next 10 years. This keeps the Postal Service solvent, and eliminates the need for further postal bailouts.

Common ground is illusive in this body, Madam Speaker. I am proud to say that the bill before us today is truly a bipartisan step in the right direction to help the Postal Service fulfill its mission for years to come.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I would like to join my colleague, Mr. COMER, in thanking Representative FOXX for her unique contribution to this bill. She is co-chair of the Postal Caucus and played a vital role in moving this bill to the floor.

Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), the distinguished chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee that has jurisdiction over this bill also, and I thank him for his leadership on this bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, let me thank Chairwoman MALONEY. She has worked hard on this and has constantly been telling us for months and years how important this was and we had to get it done. So congratulations. The day has arrived.

□ 1445

The U.S. Postal Service, Madam Speaker, is one of the oldest and most essential American institutions. Unfortunately, it has struggled financially for many years. That is why this comprehensive, bipartisan legislation is important, because it will address the financial challenges facing the Postal Service.

A report last year by the GAO found that, since 2007, Postal Service expenses have grown faster than revenues, in part due to the cost of benefits, including retiree expenses.

The Energy and Commerce Committee has worked closely with the Oversight and Reform Committee to craft healthcare provisions in the Postal Service Reform Act that both protect the benefits of retirees and put the Postal Service on a better financial footing.

Under the bill, current Postal Service retirees will be able to keep their retirement health plans provided by the Postal Service and will not be required to enroll in Medicare. However, the legislation creates a one-time special enrollment period for Postal Service retirees who are eligible for Medicare to enroll in Medicare part B if they so choose.

Postal Service retirees who enroll in Medicare part B through this special enrollment period would not pay late enrollment penalties on their part B premium. Instead, the Postal Service would pay any late enrollment penalties on behalf of the individual.

Arrangements like this exist today for certain State and local government employees. The new special enrollment period will make it easier and more affordable for current Postal Service retirees to enroll in Medicare's comprehensive health coverage, and the majority of Postal Service retirees already choose to take advantage of their Medicare benefits.

H.R. 3076 would also require future Postal Service retirees to enroll in Medicare when they become eligible in order to qualify for the Postal Service's retiree health plan. This would mean that future Postal Service retirees who are eligible for Medicare would have Medicare as their primary insurer but also have their Postal Service health plan filling any gaps in Medicare coverage. This is a common way to provide retiree insurance in the private sector.

Overall, I believe this bill will improve the financial health of the Postal Service, and it will allow the Postal Service to continue providing critical services to the Nation and health benefits to its employees and retirees.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank everyone, particularly Chairwoman MALONEY, for their involvement in this effort, and I urge support for the bill.

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS), the ranking member of the House Administration Committee.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I do want to reiterate congratulations and thanks to Chairwoman MALONEY and Ranking Member COMER.

I am a little disappointed, though, because our colleague, Mr. YOUNG, the dean of the House, is sitting right in front of my favorite microphone. But I will go here.

I do want to say, this is a great day. We see bipartisanship in action, bringing this bill to the floor.

I have been a strong supporter of the Postal Service throughout my time in

Congress. The Postal Service is a lifeline to many rural communities across our country and many right in Illinois' 13th District that I am proud to represent.

For many families, the Postal Service delivers lifesaving medications, benefits, and messages from loved ones. Its services are critical. That is why I have been a leader in supporting it and its employees, like the letter carriers and the postmasters, who truly are essential.

Because of the Postal Service's importance to my constituents, I have worked with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to lead on initiatives to ensure it is not privatized, delivers mail on Saturdays, and retains strict service standards.

The Postal Service keeps us connected in ways electronic communication and other services cannot. Additionally, it finishes delivering packages for private companies in more rural regions of our country, like mine.

I am glad we are here today, voting on this vital piece of legislation that will provide more funding and resources to our postal employees.

This bill, importantly, makes the Postal Service financially viable for generations to come and implements efficiencies that will protect taxpayers and consumers alike. Postmaster General Louis DeJoy projects this legislation will save the Postal Service \$58 billion over the next 10 years and correct the agency's long-term financial problems by 2030. Additionally, the Congressional Budget Office estimates this legislation will save the Federal Government \$1.5 billion over 10 years.

For these reasons, I support this vital piece of legislation, and I urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ), the distinguished chair of the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this long-elusive, bipartisan legislation that has been years in the making. Congratulations to Chairwoman MALONEY on her Herculean effort, along with Mr. COMER.

In the past 2 years, postal workers faced historic public health challenges to heroically provide a lifeline for all Americans. Just as they always deliver for us, this reform bill will deliver long-overdue reforms to allow our Postal Service to thrive.

No other entity, public or private, is required to prefund retiree health benefits for all its employees decades into the future. Only the Postal Service faces that fiscally untenable mandate, and this legislation eradicates that burden.

This reform also codifies 6-day mail delivery, which I am proud to have long fought for as an appropriator.

This consensus bill increases transparency; allows other services to be of-

fered to its customers; and expands special rates for newspapers, to help these vital community watchdogs thrive. These are all commonsense reforms.

As we build on it, the next steps should require that Members be able to conduct oversight at postal facilities without prior notice and allow designation of single ZIP Codes for cities like Hollywood and Cooper City, Florida, in my district, where assigned ZIP Codes overlap jurisdictions.

Madam Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote on this critical legislation to help the Postal Service better serve the American people.

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN), who also serves as ranking subcommittee member on the House Committee on Oversight and Reform.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I, as well, support this bill.

This is a bipartisan bill, and people have to realize it has to be a bipartisan bill. I don't think either party could get 218 votes for this bill, and of course, the same thing is true in the U.S. Senate. Therefore, it can't be a bill for extreme people.

There are probably some people who want to get rid of the post office and just see what happens. Those people are going to vote against the bill.

However, this is a bill in part negotiated by our current Postmaster General, Louis DeJoy. I think he has done a tremendous job.

For years, people have said we ought to run the post office like a business. Now, we have a businessman who doesn't need the job, and he has negotiated a package.

Admittedly, some people not normally known to sign have signed off. But it is a good package that will save money.

If this package doesn't pass today, we will probably deal with another package in 2 or 4 years that is not as good as this package.

We are including new machines, which will improve efficiency. We are going to switch to more full-time people, which will result in less overtime. We are going to align the distribution network, and there will be transportation savings there. These things may not happen in the future.

I think Mr. DeJoy has done a good job. I think we should stand with him. I think if we do not vote for this bill today, we are really sending a message that we cannot vote for something unless it is absolutely perfect.

I do believe there will be a substantial savings over the next few years, a savings which would not result if this bill would fail today. I strongly encourage my colleagues, including my conservative colleagues, to vote for this bill.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY), the distinguished

chairman of the Subcommittee on Government Operations.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I thank Chairwoman MALONEY for her leadership, as well as Ranking Member COMER. I am also proud as an original cosponsor of this bill and as the chairman of the subcommittee with jurisdiction over postal issues.

This bill contains provisions that, when taken together, will right the course of the Postal Service, returning it to solvency and removing undue burdens that have mired it in debt for 16 years.

Much of the blame for the Postal Service's financial struggle rests squarely here in Congress. In 2003, Congress enacted the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act, requiring the Postal Service to make annual, exorbitant prepayments into its retiree health benefits fund, a requirement required of no other entity in the United States. These payments kept the Postal Service from profitability for years, since 2006.

To be sure, this prepayment is not the only issue plaguing the Postal Service's financial posture in an increasingly online and digital society. But as the ranking member indicated, what this bill does do is takes care of that red ink that we are responsible for and puts the Postal Service in a position to buy time to develop a 21st century business model that will work and will continue to serve the American people.

We owe a debt of gratitude to postal workers who have, every day during this pandemic, served every household and every business in America on time and reliably, in terms of providing that lifeline and that one constant in our lives that we depend on.

This bill is going to shore that up and buttress that. It represents a bipartisan compromise that is long overdue, and I salute the leadership of our committee, our chairwoman and our ranking member, in being able to forge that bipartisan coalition that allows us to address this issue today in a meaningful way and to pass this bill.

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BACON).

Mr. BACON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3076, the Postal Service Reform Act.

The United States Postal Service has been part of our society since Benjamin Franklin was appointed the first Postmaster General in 1775. However, with the ever-advancing digital economy, the Postal Service's financial difficulties are well known in modern times.

This bill takes the necessary steps toward addressing the financial and operational issues facing the Postal Service and properly updates them for the 21st century. A first-class postal system is critical for businesses and our economy; it keeps 330 million Americans connected.

This bill also seeks to repair the Postal Service's unsustainable health

and retirement benefits by coordinating an enrollment into Medicare. Under current law, the Postal Service is required to annually prepay future retirement health benefits, an obligation Congress does not require of most other public or private entities. The Postal Service is bound by statute into this unmanageable system while still being required to work like a private business.

Congress tied their hands. We created this problem, and now it has been returned to sender. The package will not stamp out all the Postal Service's problems overnight, but it is grounded in established practices and will help deliver first-class-level results worthy of the legacy of Ben Franklin.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFazio), the distinguished chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Mr. DEFazio. Madam Speaker, I thank Mrs. MALONEY for getting us to this point today, and I thank the ranking member also.

Postal reform has been languishing around here for more than a decade, and we are finally there. The two largest elements of this bill—one was already just mentioned by Representative CONNOLLY, the absurd prefunding mandate that was stuck in at midnight in a conference, and no one knew it was there. It was back during the Bush administration. They were trying to kill off the Postal Service.

It said you will prepay healthcare for the next 75 years of employees. That means people who weren't even born yet, people who might go to work for the Postal Service someday, that might retire, we are prepaying their healthcare. That has been an incredible burden on the Postal Service.

Now, that is going to be fixed. We are going to do away with that. That is a bill I have carried for many years, the USPS Fairness Act. We had, actually, 277 cosponsors on that bill in this Congress. I am very pleased it was included as a key part of reform.

The other one is to have postal retirees sign up for Medicare like our Federal retirees. That saves another \$23 billion.

Those two things alone will put the Postal Service solvent into the near future, and we will take other steps to increase efficiency.

The Postal Service is critical. They will go where the private sector will not go, does not want to go. I have people who live in the most remote parts of my district, very remote. They make a living on eBay and selling things. If the Postal Service wouldn't pick up their packages and wouldn't deliver their packages with that box rate, they couldn't make a living. FedEx isn't going to go out there; UPS isn't going to go out there. In fact, they dump all the stuff about 25 miles away from Powers and say: Hey, take this out to that little town. We don't want to go out that far.

It is an absolutely crucial service for tens of millions of Americans, and today, we are going to ensure its future.

Madam Speaker, I urge passage of this bill, and I thank the chair and the ranking member for their work.

□ 1500

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. ARMSTRONG), who has been a strong supporter of reform from day one.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Madam Speaker, we all know the importance of the U.S. Postal Service and its core mission of prompt, reliable, and efficient mail service to all Americans, regardless of where they live.

This is essential in States like North Dakota, where even the most rural postal customers rely on the USPS for the reliable delivery of everything from electric bills to essential medicine.

But for too long, Congress has ignored the substantial problems plaguing the U.S. Postal Service. From declining mail volume to operational inefficiency, the Postal Service has been stuck with a business model that is not suited to meet the needs of the 21st century.

This body has been complicit in allowing the financially independent Postal Service to die a slow death over the last 15 years. In that time, we have seen mail volume collapse by 40 percent; annual losses total more than \$90 billion; and the addition of more than 1 million new delivery points every year.

When I was on the floor debating these issues last Congress, I said the Postal Service does not need a short-term bailout; it needs serious reform. This bill begins that process.

H.R. 3076 is complementary to Postmaster General DeJoy's 10-year reform plan and his request to Congress. This bill increases accountability by requiring a public dashboard with national and local service performance data that is routinely updated. It supports the delivery of mail at least 6 days per week. It requires regular reporting to Congress so we can keep on top of the Postal Service's plan and ensure the investment goals, cost savings, and revenue projections are met.

It is more important than ever to support initiatives that place the Postal Service on a path to financial stability and maintain its self-sufficiency. With a current projected insolvency date of 2024, delaying postal reform today will only make future decisions more difficult and more expensive. The status quo is simply not an option.

I appreciate Ranking Member COMER and Chairwoman MALONEY coming together on this bipartisan bill to do the hard work of making the Postal Service more reliable and sustainable in the long term, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to

the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), the distinguished vice chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chair and the ranking member for this amazing legislation.

To my good friend from Oregon, Mr. DEFAZIO, I remember that bill year after year after year because the post office was given the death penalty. That is what happened in the dark of night.

I worked for the post office. Yes, I remember sorting the mail in those old days. But what I most remember is the 1 million new delivery points every year that the post office adds. While others are making a lot of money, they go to the rural areas.

I also remember the letter carriers, the rural postmasters, and all the hard-working men and women who were coming to us week after week, day after day, and said: We are dying out here, and we need to be able to have our healthcare taken care of.

But guess what? The post office had to prepay it. No one else had ever had to do that. It was one of the highest liabilities. Along with that, they were required to fund their pension liabilities at a much higher level than the rest of the Federal Government.

To conserve cash, they hadn't been paying since 2012. Can you imagine, they stopped paying their bills since 2012 because they didn't have any money?

By more closely integrating Medicare, USPS estimates it can save \$22.6 billion over 10 years. What a smart thing to do.

Then, of course, the Postal Service Reform Act would eliminate the requirement of the prepaid retirement. And, then, it would require USPS to develop a public-facing online dashboard.

Again, the idea is to save the post office for the American people, save it for the workers, and save it because it is patriotic to do so. I congratulate you.

Madam Speaker, as a senior member of the House and the Committee on Homeland Security, and as Chair of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, and a member of the Equality Caucus, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3076, the Postal Service Reform Act of 2022.

Passage of this legislation is urgently needed because USPS incurred its fourteenth consecutive net annual loss in 2020, and even if USPS continues to default on mandated payments, it would likely run out of cash to fund its operations prior to 2024.

Madam Speaker, USPS funds the universal mail service it provides to nearly 159 million delivery points solely through the sale of postage.

USPS adds one million new delivery points every year, even as mail volume continues to fall.

This means USPS must deliver less and less mail to more and more places.

In addition, several congressional mandates imposed when mail volume was at its peak put USPS on the road to insolvency.

USPS is required to pre-fund the health care costs of its employees, regardless of whether they actually serve until retirement.

USPS is also required to fund its pension liabilities at a much higher level than the rest of the federal government.

To conserve cash, USPS has defaulted on retiree health care payments since 2012.

That is why the key reforms in the Postal Service Reform Act of 2021 are so important.

First, the Postal Service Reform Act of 2021 would require future Postal Service retirees, who have been paying into Medicare their entire careers, to enroll in Medicare.

Currently, roughly a quarter of postal retirees do not enroll in Medicare even though they are eligible, which means USPS is stuck paying far higher premiums than any other public or private sector employer.

By more closely integrating Medicare, USPS estimates it could save approximately \$22.6 billion over 10 years.

Second, the Postal Service Reform Act of 2021 would eliminate the requirement that USPS pre-fund retiree health benefits for all current and retired employees for 75 years in the future.

No private company or other federal government entity is required to comply with such a burdensome requirement and its elimination is estimated to drastically reduce its prefunding liability and allow USPS to save roughly \$27 billion over 10 years.

Third, USPS Reform Act of 2021 would require USPS to develop a public-facing, online dashboard with national and local level service performance data updated each week to provide additional transparency and promote compliance with on-time delivery of mail.

Fourth, the Postal Service Reform Act of 2021 would require USPS to deliver both mail and packages at least six days per week across an integrated network.

Finally, the Postal Service Reform Act of 2021 would allow USPS to enter into agreements with State, local, and tribal governments to provide non-commercial property and services that provide enhanced value, do not detract from core postal services, and provide a reasonable contribution to Postal Service institutional costs.

In addition, the legislation contains several provisions that will improve the effectiveness of the Postal Service, including:

The expansion of special rates for local newspaper distribution to promote local news organizations;

A Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) review of cost attribution guidelines for different Postal Service products to ensure pricing accuracy and better accounting;

Increased funding autonomy and control for the Postal Regulatory Commission to increase its budgetary resources commensurate with its mission of regulating the Postal Service, and to shield the PRC from government shutdowns;

A study on operational inefficiencies in Postal Service flats and magazine processing;

Regular congressional reporting on Postal Service operations and financial performance to enable accountability of stated cost savings, revenue, and infrastructure investment goals;

Adjustments to the considerations USPS must make when deciding which mode of transportation to use to deliver mail in order to ensure greater consistency and reliability; and

The consolidation of the PRC's small Inspector General Office into the more robust Postal Service Office of Inspector General.

Madam Speaker, the Postal Service's unmatched network and Universal Service Obligation serves 159 million homes and businesses every day, processing and delivering an average of 430 million pieces of mail and packages per day.

In fact, USPS often delivers seven days a week due to demand and necessity.

This has been especially true during the Covid-19 pandemic as American homes, businesses and private shippers have relied on the Postal Service to meet their needs in these extraordinary times.

Madam Speaker, I strongly support this legislation and urge all Members to join me in voting for H.R. 3076, the Postal Service Reform Act of 2021.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), the dean of the House.

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. COMER and Mrs. MALONEY. This is a good bill.

I have been working on this program for, actually, 48 years. I was here when they stopped the post office, when we used to run it, and we caused this mess. You guys are cleaning it up. I want my colleagues to know this is the right way to go for the post office.

Now, you may wonder why I am so excited about this bill. Try living in Alaska when you don't have any roads. Try not having anything but the post office. Try to get your medicines and all the other things. The post office is the key to the communities in Alaska. This bill solves all the problems for the post office.

I am proud of the work you have done. I want to thank the staff who worked on this legislation. It was a hard issue because there are some people who say: Oh, let them go private. Don't worry about it.

You can't run something like this in the State of Alaska. Because of our distances and lack of transportation, the post office is the key to our economy in our great State. I want to thank both of you for the work you have done. God bless you.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH), the distinguished chairman of the Subcommittee on National Security.

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I thank Chair MALONEY and Ranking Member COMER for the great work they have done on this bill.

As the son of a postal worker, my mom; as the brother of two postal workers, my sisters Karen and Linda; and as a nephew and cousin to about at least a dozen more, especially Pat Morris, my favorite, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3076, the Postal Service Reform Act of 2022.

This landmark reform agreement will finally place our most trusted government institution on a path toward financial viability. It is the product of bipartisan collaboration and meaningful stakeholder input. It focuses solely on fundamental reform areas that have long been the subject of bipartisan and stakeholder consensus.

To that end, H.R. 3076 repeals the onerous mandate in current law requiring the Postal Service to prefund retiree health benefits years before it is necessary.

The agreement also integrates postal retiree health benefits with Medicare to ensure that all postal workers receive the benefits that they have already paid for, a total of more than \$35 billion over the last 40 years.

Moreover, this legislation codifies our support for an integrated network through which nearly 650,000 dedicated clerks, mail handlers, letter carriers, supervisors, and postmasters process and deliver mail and packages to the American people at least 6 days a week, even amid a global pandemic.

I want to acknowledge the tireless contributions of our employee partners, especially the unions, in this effort, including President Fred Rolando of the National Association of Letter Carriers, Paul Hogrogian of the National Postal Mail Handlers Union, President Ronnie Stutts of the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, and President Mark Dimondstein of the American Postal Workers Union.

I also want to recognize Kori Blalock Keller, Jim Sauber, Paul Swartz, Katie Maddocks, Brian Young, and Judy Beard, and the irreplaceable Bob Losi, my great pal and union brother, and all their staffs for their good work.

Again, I commend Chairwoman MALONEY, Ranking Member COMER, Chairman CONNOLLY, Representative LAWRENCE, and our dear departed friend Elijah Cummings, who put a lot of time in on this, for their great work.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support H.R. 3076.

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MALLIOTAKIS).

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today in support of this bipartisan Postal Service Reform Act.

Our postal workers are the reliable chain that links Americans and businesses, from coast to coast.

This bill improves the efficiency of the Postal Service by streamlining the transportation network, optimizing the workforce to avoid costly overtime, and requiring reporting accountability.

Additionally, it eliminates the requirement that the USPS prepays 75 years' worth of retiree health benefits, saving \$27 billion over the next 10 years. It also improves customer service by requiring 6-day delivery.

It is time for us to pave a better path for our neighbors who rely on and work for the U.S. Postal Service, like John Byers, who recently retired after 40 years of dedicated service to my district.

I strongly encourage my colleagues to stand alongside our postal workers and vote for this bill.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE), the distinguished co-chair of the Congressional Women's Caucus.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3076, the Postal Service Reform Act.

As the only Member of Congress who served an entire career of 30 years at the post office before coming to this House, I am thrilled to support legislation that will be the groundwork for the Postal Service to continue serving America.

I came to Congress with a promise to my constituents and to this country that I would fight to protect and to ensure that we uphold and make sure that our Postal Service is strong. Throughout my career, I was a letter carrier, a clerk, a supervisor, and then moved up to management. I know firsthand how important the Postal Service is. As a matter of fact, I call myself a public servant. I know the hard work of our postal employees and how much this bill means to them and their lives.

I know that, today, in a bipartisan way—how amazing is that to say on this floor—we are working to uphold our commitment to address the longstanding financial issues facing this agency.

Every day, the dedicated Postal Service workers deliver packages around this country. They deliver them to us. Today, Congress has the opportunity to deliver a package that will take care of the Postal Service, one that is established by the Constitution, to ensure that neither rain, sleet, nor snow will deter them from their appointed rounds.

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY).

Ms. TENNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3076, the bipartisan Postal Service Reform Act.

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution gives Congress the power to establish post offices and to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for executing that task. Yes, the U.S. Postal Service, like the Department of Defense, is a constitutionally created entity.

As a lawyer and longtime small business owner and publisher of a direct mailed newspaper, the importance of access to our unique system of universal mail via the United States Postal Service is a game changer.

Affordable and reliable mail service has given small businesses and entrepreneurs a level playing field that would be eliminated if the Postal Service were to be replaced by other more expensive private options.

Seniors and vulnerable citizens rely on the Postal Service for access to prescriptions. Small businesses and farmers rely on the post office to provide reliable and affordable daily delivery. Families across America, and especially rural America, need the Postal Service to stay connected here and around the world.

This bill ensures the U.S. Postal Service can continue delivering universal mail services for years to come by alleviating financial burdens and increasing transparency and accountability.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON), the distinguished chair of the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I thank the distinguished chair and our ranking member for this bipartisan bill, and I am pleased to speak today in support of the Postal Service Reform Act. Amongst other good policy, this bill would finally get rid of the prefunding of retirement health benefits that has unnecessarily marked the U.S. Postal Service's finances in a way that other Federal agencies are not treated, nor the private sector.

Under current law, the Postal Service is required to prefund retiree health benefits for all current and retired employees for 75 years in the future. This is a unique requirement, and I am pleased that this bill that enjoys widespread support would fix this. The bill amends the 2006 Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act to correct this accounting problem, allowing the Postal Service to save an astonishing \$27 billion over the course of 10 years. The accounting problem led to U.S. Postal Service showing losses annually of \$5.2 billion since 2007 when the U.S. Postal Service, from 2013 to 2018, instead would have shown a surplus of nearly \$4 billion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON LEE). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman an additional 15 seconds.

Ms. NORTON. I would be remiss if I didn't take this opportunity to note my strong concerns about delayed and undelivered mail in the District of Columbia. Throughout most of the pandemic, I have written to the Postal Service to repeatedly raise these concerns. These problems at the Postal

Service in the Nation's Capital and throughout the country need immediate attention.

I thank Congresswoman MALONEY for her leadership on this important issue.

□ 1515

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GARBARINO).

Mr. GARBARINO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3076, the Postal Service Reform Act of 2021.

The United States Postal Service is in urgent need of reform. The U.S. Postal Service provides an essential service to the American people, but due to losses in revenue year after year, the long-term viability of that service is in jeopardy. In fact, it is projected that the U.S. Postal Service will run out of money completely by 2024.

This bill would institute reforms that would save the Postal Service an estimated \$46 billion over 10 years. Among other provisions, the Postal Service Reform Act would require postal employees to enroll in Medicare when they are eligible and to eliminate the unreasonable requirement that the Postal Service prefund its retiree health benefits 75 years into the future.

Additionally, this bill would improve service by instituting transparency requirements, promoting compliance with on-time delivery of mail, requiring operation of at least 6 days a week, and expanding nonpostal services.

We cannot turn a blind eye to the collapse of our postal system. I urge every one of my colleagues to support this bill to prevent this.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding, and I salute the leadership of Chairwoman CAROLYN MALONEY and Ranking Member JAMES COMER. I thank them both for bringing this important legislation to the floor and their determined leadership to have a bipartisan bill, which is really important, and doing so, again, in a spirit of bipartisanship that would make our Founders proud.

Madam Speaker, 230 years ago this month our fledgling Nation took a bold step toward the future by formally establishing the modern United States Postal Service, a beautiful thread that continues to weave together communities across America.

Today, I rise in support of the Postal Service Reform Act, which takes long overdue actions to strengthen this pillar of our democracy so that it can continue to serve our communities for decades to come.

Since our earliest days, when couriers on horseback traversed the Colonies, America's postal system has been a model for the world.

Indeed, our Founders knew the value of a strong Postal Service, enshrining

it into Article I, Section 8 of our Constitution: "The Congress shall have the power . . . to establish post offices and post roads."

And, when Alexis de Tocqueville visited in the early 19th century, he was in awe of how our Postal Service brought Americans together, writing there was "no French province in which the inhabitants knew each other as well as 13 million men spread over the extent of the United States."

Yet, decades of poor policy decisions and chronic underinvestment have put this all-American institution on the path of insolvency. As was indicated by the gentleman who just spoke, experts project that USPS will run out of cash as soon as 2024; and reduced services and added delays would only continue and bring harm in every ZIP Code.

Meanwhile, our Nation continues to ask more and more of our postal workers. Today, they deliver to nearly 159 million delivery points—imagine that—159 million delivery points—across the Nation, and they add one million more delivery points each year. And millions of Americans depend on the USPS to deliver prescriptions, Social Security benefits, paychecks, tax returns, absentee ballots, and more.

I will just say in the period of COVID the U.S. Postal Service was angelic. It was delivering prescriptions to our veterans who were in need of those prescriptions, as well as to seniors and others. So we thank them for that.

So this legislation would put the Postal Service on stronger financial footing while improving the reliability of its services while protecting the benefits of employees and retirees.

The legislation makes bipartisan, commonsense provisions that will welcome all future postal retirees into Medicare, free the U.S. Postal Service from the unnecessary requirement to prefund retiree health benefits 75 years in advance—and we call that a financial albatross—and improve USPS reliability with new transparency measures that will help ensure consistent on-time mail delivery.

I have much more on that that I will submit for the RECORD, Madam Speaker.

As a mother of five and grandmother of nine, I heavily depend on the Postal Service for all kinds of things. Children write letters to Santa. They still write letters to Santa. They do not text Santa. Some do, maybe, but the letter to Santa is very important. Parents sharing graduation photos; friends offering condolences; wedding announcements; whatever it is, it is still the duty of the Postal Service to deliver it. And servicemembers communicating with home is so important.

This important legislation takes the strong step to empower the Postal Service to continue its crucial mission to improve our lives, touch our hearts, and connect our communities.

With that, I once again want to thank Chairwoman MALONEY and Ranking Member COMER, and I urge a

strong bipartisan vote for this legislation.

And again, even though we are communicating electronically in so many ways, there is no substitute for that personal connection that the Postal Service provides for us.

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER).

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I had not originally planned to speak on this bill, but I think there are several things that need to be underscored. And before I get into those, let me say we have all had our moments with the Postal Service; I certainly have. But this is one agency that is specifically prescribed by the Constitution. Major reforms are always hard, and when we have the opportunity to make these reforms, we need to take that opportunity.

Part of the reason why I am so strongly in support of this bill is my friend Louis DeJoy, who is the Postmaster General. There is no one more capable and qualified to serve in that capacity. This is a gentleman who is one in a million.

Now is the best time to get these reforms passed and get them implemented. If we don't do it now, it may never happen.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY), the distinguished chair of the Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Postal Service Reform Act. I thank Chairwoman MALONEY and Ranking Member COMER for delivering good news for America.

What is this good news? This bill eliminates the retirement health prefunding mandate. It requires 6-day-a-week delivery. It increases transparency and accountability for the Postal Service.

I thank all of our allies who have been working to pass this bill, including the letter carriers, post handlers, rural carriers, postal workers. Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night, nor politics or partisanship can get in the way of this bill.

I urge swift passage of the Postal Service Reform Act.

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK).

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Postal Service Reform Act.

As my colleagues have pointed out here, this is a long-overdue reform measure that will ensure 6-day delivery, eliminate the prefund mandate which, by the way, applies only to the U.S. Postal Service. Not a single other government agency across this Nation

has been subject to this wildly outrageous provision that has significantly undermined the financial stability of the post office.

Madam Speaker, the very first Postmaster General was someone from my hometown of Philadelphia, a man by the name of Ben Franklin. His annual salary was \$1,000 a year. And you look at the history of the U.S. Postal Service, all the way up to and including the time of the COVID-19 pandemic where they were up there on the front lines serving our communities, serving our constituents, making sure that our country continued to run. We owe them this support to reform these measures and ensure the stability and strength of our hero letter carriers and postal workers across our Nation.

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, may I inquire how much time I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Kentucky has 8½ minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from New York has 9 minutes remaining.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS), the distinguished chairman of the Worker and Family Support Subcommittee.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I commend the chairwoman of this committee and ranking member for bringing this very important bipartisan bill to the floor.

I associate myself with many of the comments that have been made by colleagues on both sides, but I also remember when Chicago, the third largest city in the United States of America, believed that its Postal Service was the best thing it had going. We took great pride in it. That has not been the case for the last several years.

And so we are coming to this point today where we can restore the viability of our Postal Service. I also worked at the post office. It was my first real job. And we had a saying: "Clean hands, gentle touch, surely we owe a letter that much." We will restore that.

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), the distinguished chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this bipartisan United States Postal Service and Postal Service Reform bill.

By eliminating the unnecessary and harmful mandate to prefund retiree benefits, and preserving 6-day delivery, we are investing in our hardworking postal workers and safeguarding this vital American service.

For more than 200 years, the United States Postal Service has delivered to households and businesses in every community on every block in every State of our great Nation. What an American enterprise.

Through rain, sleet, and snow, hundreds of thousands of postal workers serve America every single day, making sure we all remain connected.

I was a carrier; I know, too.

The United States Postal Service is foundational to our American way of life. It is incumbent upon Congress to support this cherished and essential institution for all the generations to come.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote for the Postal Service Reform bill and vote for the United States Postal Service.

I thank all those who labored for so many years to bring this to the floor. Congratulations to you and to America.

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1530

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I thank my House colleagues for their heartfelt remarks today.

Madam Speaker, America's most esteemed institution, the United States Postal Service, is in trouble. Since the 1970s legislative reform, Congress has expected the Postal Service to operate as an independent and self-sufficient organization. However, for years, the Postal Service has spent far more than it has brought in, and last year alone lost over \$9 billion. Many of these challenges are beyond the control of prior Postal Service leadership.

The U.S. Congress has legally obligated the Postal Service to provide universal mail service delivery. Today, that means delivery to over 160 million addresses. This is a massive and expensive undertaking that cannot be glossed over. Additionally, as our Nation's population and economy continues to grow, so will the Postal Service's ever-increasing expenses.

H.R. 3076 does not change this universal service obligation, but we risk having that difficult national conversation if we do nothing. The price for inaction is a Postal Service that will eventually require drastic service reductions, especially in rural, remote parts of America, or continual taxpayer-funded bailouts, which no conservative and no taxpayer should want. Neither are desirable options.

We have an opportunity to pass targeted legislation to relieve the Postal Service of certain financial hardships and bolster its ambitious structure reform initiatives.

This moment, with a bipartisan bill and bold Postal Service leadership at the helm, may not be easily replicated in future years. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 3036.

Madam Speaker, before I yield back, I would be remiss if I didn't say my grandmother spent her whole career as a rural mail carrier. Her name was Maitred Witcher, and she had Route 1

in Red Boiling Springs, Tennessee. I grew up with an appreciation for our mail carriers and I appreciate all the hardworking employees of the U.S. Postal Service.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, as we have heard many times on the floor today, the Postal Service is vital to the United States. It is so important that the Founding Fathers put it in the Constitution, right there under Article I. They did this because they knew that the Postal Service would keep our people connected and would ensure that no matter where a person lives in this country, they can receive mail and other critical deliveries.

As the gentleman, the dean, from Alaska said, one stamp can take you from across the street in an urban area all the way to Alaska to some of the most remote areas. It is a critical, critical service.

Madam Speaker, this bipartisan bill will dramatically improve the financial situation of the Postal Service—and I would say the country that depends on it—and enable it to continue performing these essential services for the American people.

We all know firsthand the incredible job that the postal workers did during the COVID-19 crisis, risking their lives to deliver our mail every day. While many of us were quarantined and safe in our homes, they were out interacting with people every day providing the service. At times in my district, half the Postal Service was out sick with COVID because of the interaction that they did to save our lives.

Just as 9/11 was helped so dramatically by the police and fire, along with the healthcare workers, this COVID crisis was helped dramatically by the Postal Service. They are really the heroes and heroines of this crisis.

Madam Speaker, I share my thanks for the support of so many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who understand and support the necessity of these reforms. A vote for this bill is not only a vote for the post office, I would say it is a vote for yourself, for the services that we all receive, for America, for our institutions, and our values.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter that lists all the Members who reached out to indicate that they would have cosponsored the bill had they had the opportunity to do so.

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, February 8, 2022.

CHERYL L. JOHNSON,

Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR Ms. JOHNSON: As a result of a clerical error, numerous Members of Congress who had expressed interest in cosponsoring H.R. 3076, the Postal Service Reform Act, were not added to the bill before it was discharged

from all committees and placed on the union calendar. Below is a list of the Members of Congress who would have cosponsored H.R. 3076 had they been able to be added.

Brad Sherman (CA), David B. McKinley (WV), Andy Levin (MI), Maria Elvira Salazar (FL), Mark Pocan (WI), Mariannette Miller-Meeks (IA), Salud Carbajal (CA), Madeleine Dean (PA), Eric Swalwell (CA), Lisa Blunt Rochester (DE), Veronica Escobar (TX), Jim Langevin (RI), Peter DeFazio (OR), Yvette D. Clarke (NY), Peter Welch (VT), Betty McCollum (MN), Bobby L. Rush (IL), Marc Veasey (TX), David Trone (MD), Nydia Velázquez (NY), Brendan Boyle (PA), Alma Adams (NC).

Raúl M. Grijalva (AZ), Ann Kuster (NH), Jim Himes (CT), Robin Kelly (IL), Doris Matsui (CA), Rashida Tlaib (MI), Tom Malinowski (NJ), Barbara Lee (CA), Haley Stevens (MD), Jake Auchincloss (MA), Pramila Jayapal (WA), Greg Stanton (AZ), Judy Chu (CA), Gregory Meeks (NY), John Yarmuth (KY), Deborah Ross (NC), Colin Allred (TX), Antonio Delgado (NY), Jim McGovern (MA), Donald Payne Jr. (NJ), Diana DeGette (CO), William Keating (MA).

Sara Jacobs (CA), David Cicilline (RI), André Carson (IN), Kweisi Mfume (MD), Mark DeSaulnier (CA), Lizzie Fletcher (TX), Emanuel Cleaver (MO), Luis Correa (CA), Henry Cuellar (TX), Carolyn Bourdeaux (GA), Paul Tonko (NY), Adam Smith (WA), Suzan K. DelBene (WA), Danny K. Davis (IL), Chrissy Houlahan (PA).

Jared Golden (ME), Mary Gay Scanlon (PA), Mike Levin (CA), Matt Cartwright (PA), Sean Casten (IL), Vicente González (TX), Suzanne Bonamici (OR), Michael Waltz (FL), Julia Brownley (CA), Jamie Raskin (MD), Ashley Hinson (IA), Glenn "GT" Thompson (PA), Mark Takano (CA), Adam Schiff (CA), Sheila Jackson-Lee (TX).

Sincerely,

CAROLYN B. MALONEY

Chairwoman,

Committee on Oversight and Reform.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I also include in the RECORD a list of over 200 diverse organizations across our country that support this bill.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE,
Washington, DC, June 28, 2021.

Hon. GARY C. PETERS,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. ROB PORTMAN,
Ranking Member, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. CAROLYN P. MALONEY,
Chairwoman, Committee on Oversight and Reform, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES COMER,
Ranking Member, Committee on Oversight and Reform, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN PETERS, CHAIRWOMAN MALONEY, RANKING MEMBER PORTMAN, AND RANKING MEMBER COMER: I want to salute your leadership in introducing bipartisan, bicameral legislation to restore the Postal Service to financial sustainability while advancing service and operational accountability. You have struck an important balance in the Postal Service Reform Act, evident by the impressive list of bipartisan original cosponsors. The American people and the men and women of the Postal Service will be the beneficiaries of this outstanding work for years to come.

The Postal Service supports the bill and has provided your staff with modest technical refinements that we hope will be adopt-

ed as the legislative process advances. We have provided similar feedback to the Office of Management and Budget at their request. Postal reform legislation has faltered in past Congresses when language is added that unsettles the kind of careful balance you have achieved in this bill. Accordingly, I would commend your collective resolve in advancing a reform bill limited to the current set of provisions.

I wanted to particularly comment on Section 202, the Integrated Delivery Network provision, which as introduced requires six-day delivery through an integrated delivery network for market-dominant and competitive products. This provision sets forth important principles that underlie the Postal Service's provision of universal mail and package delivery service and that therefore benefit the American people. I strongly urge you to retain the wording as introduced, despite what we consider to be a parochial and misguided effort to modify or eliminate it.

I have elaborated in an attachment on the reasons this provision is so essential to our mission.

I look forward to continuing to work with you to advance the postal reform legislation you have put forward to serve the interests of the American people. Each of you have already shown yourselves to be exceptional leaders to preserve this essential institution and its noble mission. Please let me how we can assist in your important efforts.

Sincerely,

LOUIS DEJOY,

Postmaster General, CEO.

AN INTEGRATED NETWORK ENABLES SIX-DAY DELIVERY

I offer the following context regarding the merit of the language proposed in Section 202 of your bill, which would amend how the Postal Service's universal service obligation is described in our enabling statute, Title 39 of the United States Code. Specifically, that provision would amend 39 U.S.C. 101(b) by adding the following: "The Postal Service shall maintain an integrated network for the delivery of market-dominant and competitive products (as defined in chapter 36 of this title). Delivery shall occur at least six days a week, except during weeks that include a Federal holiday or in emergency situations, such as natural disasters."

Initially, the Postal Service took the position that it was not necessary to codify in Title 39 the requirement to deliver six days a week. We argued the "Delivering for America" plan includes at its core the "maintenance of universal six-day mail delivery and expanded seven-day package delivery reach." Recognizing, however, that it is Congress's prerogative to interpret and define the scope of the Postal Service's universal service obligation, we understand the policy goal of including a requirement to deliver six-days a week in Title 39, rather than continuing to include it as a rider to annual appropriations legislation. In particular, we understand that Congress wishes to make it clear in our enabling statute that it is appropriate public policy, and in the best interests of the American people, that the Postal Service provide at least six days of mail and package delivery as a central aspect of our universal service mission.

This same rationale applies equally to the language requiring the retention of the "integrated network for the delivery of market-dominant and competitive products" concept with any codified six-day delivery requirement. This language properly reflects that the unitary postal delivery network has delivered letters as well as packages at the same time and through the same delivery network for well over a century. American

businesses and consumers benefit from the economies of scope and density resulting from the delivery of packages across the Postal Service's universal service network, which reduces the average cost of every mail-piece in the network and leads to more affordable prices for both mail and packages. These benefits accrue to other shipping companies as well, who can access the Postal Service's delivery network through our Parcel Select product. Overall, society as a whole benefits from these economies, and there is nothing unfair or inappropriate about them. Simply put, and just like 6-day delivery, an integrated network for the delivery of mail and packages is in the best interests of the American people.

The Postal Service also considers this language to provide the appropriate operational flexibility. It does not prevent us from structuring our delivery network in an optimal fashion, such as by running special parcel routes as a supplement to our normal integrated routes when business conditions warrant. It also does not inhibit our ability to structure our middle mile processing network in the manner that we see fit, as it only applies to the delivery of mail and packages, not processing.

AN INTEGRATED NETWORK ENABLES OUR UNIVERSAL SERVICE MISSION

Congress has recognized the importance of universal package delivery, and we see the inclusion of this provision as consistent with that fundamental principle. In this regard, the universal delivery of packages is a core component of the Postal Service's universal service mission. The Postal Service provides affordable, universal package delivery services to the American people in all communities whether urban or rural, and to American businesses of all sizes. This enables full participation by all Americans in the e-commerce economy. The importance of this public service mission has become even more apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic. Now, more than ever, there can be no doubt that the Postal Service is part of the critical infrastructure of the country, providing an essential service to the American people, delivering packages with life-sustaining medications and other necessary consumable goods throughout the pandemic, and thereby shoring up the resilience of our nation.

Not only do competitive products themselves represent an important service, they also provide critical financial support to other universal services. Package delivery enables us to generate revenue that is absolutely necessary to support the provision of prompt, reliable, and affordable universal services in a self-sufficient manner, and therefore critical to our financial sustainability. Our package products generate an increasingly vital level of contribution to support the Postal Service's universal service network and thereby ensure the continued provision of reliable and efficient universal postal services to all American people and to all American businesses. Efforts that limit our ability to compete equally or chip away at our revenue generation capabilities are contrary to the public policy goal that we be self-funded while continuing to provide essential universal service to the nation.

Therefore, if Congress believes that six-day delivery is critical enough to the universal service obligation to codify it in Title 39, then as a matter of sound public policy, it should also recognize the equally critical importance of the Postal Service providing both mail and package delivery across an integrated postal delivery network.

I encourage you to retain the language of Section 202 of the Postal Service Reform Act of 2021 (H.R. 3076/S. 1720) as introduced.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. And I would again thank Ranking Member COMER for his partnership on this widely supported bill. It would not have happened without his partnership, and I am deeply grateful.

Madam Speaker, with that, I urge all of my colleagues to support this historic bipartisan bill. We rarely get a chance to vote for a bill that helps so many people, that actually saves taxpayers money, that reforms our government, doesn't cost anything. We are just reforming and making government work better to serve the people. That is what this bill is. It is a win-win-win in every direction.

Madam Speaker, I hope that this body would unanimously vote for it and send it to the Senate with a message that they should pass it as quickly as possible.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague, Mr. COMER, for his leadership, his friendship, and for the long path we went through together to make this happen. I thank all my colleagues who participated in making this happen, particularly our Speaker and our leadership in this Congress.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to support this important legislation to bolster the United States Postal Service.

As we all saw in the last few years, the postal service is vital to our communities and I'm glad that it is getting the attention that it deserves. From keeping rural and small-town America connected, to delivering Social Security checks and medications, to maintaining our democracy by ensuring that people can safely cast a vote, we have so much at stake.

Meaningful postal reform affects us all and I am happy to support this critical program.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3076, the Postal Reform Act. It is my hope that the changes in this legislation will help the United States Postal Service and its hardworking employees continue to serve our communities.

Our communities depend on a strong and vibrant Postal Service. The United States Postal Service reaches into every community of every size across our nation through its unmatched delivery network. Over 600,000 hardworking Postal Service employees, nearly a quarter of them veterans, help the Postal Service carry out its obligations and provide top quality service to our communities which has helped the Postal Service consistently rank as one of the most respected institutions.

My constituents, like most Americans, rely on the efficient and timely delivery of bills, parcels and medication by the Postal Service. And when asked to do more, our postal workers step up. For example, the administration recently leaned on the Postal Service to help distribute at home COVID test kits, given its presence and ability to reach every community in our country. It is critical that the House take up legislation to help strengthen the Postal Service. This debate has been long overdue and so I welcome today's vote. I hope our colleagues in the Senate will quickly follow suit.

The challenges facing the Postal Service are well known. The adverse impact of mandates imposed by Congress in 2006 Postal

Reform legislation that have hurt the Postal Service. The declining volume of first-class mail and associated revenue losses. Policy changes initiated by the current Postmaster General that has slowed the mail while raising mailing costs, a recipe for disaster.

At the same time, the Postal Service has an aging vehicle fleet that becomes more expensive every year to maintain and keep on the road.

The bill before us, while not perfect and not addressing every issue, would help put the Postal Service on a better path. I fear that every day of further inaction or delay on legislation such as the Postal Reform Act would only worsen the situation facing the Postal Service, its customers, and its employees. And failing to act may only lead to even more drastic measures and service cuts that will only adversely impact the millions of Americans and businesses that rely on the USPS. For example, some have used the current situation to push for ill-advised privatization of the Postal Service.

The Postal Reform Act includes provisions from stand-alone bills that I support such as preserving six-day mail delivery and repealing the requirement that the USPS pre-fund future retirement health benefits. And it would provide more flexibility for the Postal Service to offer work with state, local and tribal governments, to explore avenues to help generate more revenues.

We need a strong and vibrant Postal Service that maintains accessible services for all in our community. As the most trusted institution in the federal government and the cornerstone of a trillion dollar plus industry, the Postal Service and its dedicated postal workforce deserve every effort on our part to ensure it remains a viable and thriving institution.

I support this legislation and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as a senior member of the House and the Committee on Homeland Security, and as Chair of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, and a member of the Equality Caucus, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3076, the Postal Service Reform Act of 2022.

Passage of this legislation is urgently needed because USPS incurred its fourteenth consecutive net annual loss in 2020, and even if USPS continues to default on mandated payments, it would likely run out of cash to fund its operations prior to 2024.

Madam Speaker, USPS funds the universal mail service it provides to nearly 159 million delivery points solely through the sale of postage.

USPS adds one million new delivery points every year, even as mail volume continues to fall.

This means USPS must deliver less and less mail to more and more places.

In addition, several congressional mandates imposed when mail volume was at its peak put USPS on the road to insolvency.

USPS is required to pre-fund the health care costs of its employees, regardless of whether they actually serve until retirement.

USPS is also required to fund its pension liabilities at a much higher level than the rest of the federal government.

To conserve cash, USPS has defaulted on retiree health care payments since 2012.

That is why the key reforms in the Postal Service Reform Act of 2021 are so important.

First, the Postal Service Reform Act of 2021 would require future Postal Service retirees, who have been paying into Medicare their entire careers, to enroll in Medicare.

Currently, roughly a quarter of postal retirees do not enroll in Medicare even though they are eligible, which means USPS is stuck paying far higher premiums than any other public or private sector employer.

By more closely integrating Medicare, USPS estimates it could save approximately \$22.6 billion over 10 years.

Second, the Postal Service Reform Act of 2021 would eliminate the requirement that USPS pre-fund retiree health benefits for all current and retired employees for 75 years in the future.

No private company or other federal government entity is required to comply with such a burdensome requirement and its elimination is estimated to drastically reduce its prefunding liability and allow USPS to save roughly \$27 billion over 10 years.

Third, USPS Reform Act of 2021 would require USPS to develop a public-facing, online dashboard with national and local level service performance data updated each week to provide additional transparency and promote compliance with on-time delivery of mail.

Fourth, the Postal Service Reform Act of 2021 would require USPS to deliver both mail and packages at least six days per week across an integrated network.

Finally, the Postal Service Reform Act of 2021 would allow USPS to enter into agreements with State, local, and tribal governments to provide non-commercial property and services that provide enhanced value, do not detract from core postal services, and provide a reasonable contribution to Postal Service institutional costs.

In addition, the legislation contains several provisions that will improve the effectiveness of the Postal Service, including:

1. The expansion of special rates for local newspaper distribution to promote local news organizations;

2. A Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) review of cost attribution guidelines for different Postal Service products to ensure pricing accuracy and better accounting;

3. Increased funding autonomy and control for the Postal Regulatory Commission to increase its budgetary resources commensurate with its mission of regulating the Postal Service, and to shield the PRC from government shutdowns;

4. A study on operational inefficiencies in Postal Service flats and magazine processing;

5. Regular congressional reporting on Postal Service operations and financial performance to enable accountability of stated cost savings, revenue, and infrastructure investment goals;

6. Adjustments to the considerations USPS must make when deciding which mode of transportation to use to deliver mail in order to ensure greater consistency and reliability; and

7. The consolidation of the PRC's small Inspector General Office into the more robust Postal Service Office of Inspector General.

Madam Speaker, the Postal Service's unmatched network and Universal Service Obligation serves 159 million homes and businesses every day, processing and delivering an average of 430 million pieces of mail and packages per day.

In fact, USPS often delivers seven days a week due to demand and necessity.

This has been especially true during the Covid-19 pandemic as American homes, businesses and private shippers have relied on the Postal Service to meet their needs in these extraordinary times.

Madam Speaker, I strongly support this legislation and urge all Members to join me in voting for H.R. 3076, the Postal Service Reform Act of 2021.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate on the bill has expired.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MRS. CAROLYN B. MALONEY OF NEW YORK

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 17, line 2, strike “2022” and insert “2023”.

Page 17, beginning on line 5, strike “section 1839(e) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395r(e))” and insert “an agreement between the United States Postal Service and the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services under section 1839(e)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395r(e)(1))”.

Page 18, line 9, strike “by” and insert “for”.

Page 20, strike lines 10 through 15 and insert the following:

“(D) in consultation with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the Social Security Administration, provide information to individuals about enrollment under the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act, and refer individuals to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the Social Security Administration as necessary for additional enrollment information; and”.

Page 24, before line 24, insert the following:

(C) APPLICATION TO CERTAIN POSTAL SERVICE ANNUITANTS OR FAMILY MEMBERS.—Section 1862(b)(1)(E) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395y(b)(1)(E)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(iv) APPLICATION TO CERTAIN POSTAL SERVICE ANNUITANTS OR FAMILY MEMBERS.—Nothing in this paragraph shall prohibit a group health plan from determining an individual’s eligibility to enroll in a health benefits plan offered under the Postal Service Health Benefits Program under section 8903c of title 5, United States Code, in accordance with subsection (e) of such section.”.

Page 26, line 19, strike “a” and insert “the”.

Page 28, line 5, strike “(o).” and insert “(o)”.

Page 28, starting on line 15, strike “through” and all that follows through line 18, and insert the following: “through—

“(1) a prescription drug plan; or

“(2) contracts between such a Program plan and the PDP sponsor of such a prescription drug plan.”.

Page 29, line 13, strike the period at the end and insert the following: “, or who may be subject to the enrollment requirements described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 8903(c) of title 5, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).”.

Page 29, line 23, strike “are eligible” and insert “may be eligible”.

Page 30, strike lines 9 through 16.

Page 30, strike line 18 and all that follows through line 25 on page 31 and insert the following:

(1) CMS APPROPRIATION.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Centers for Medicare & Med-

icaid Services—Program Management Account, for fiscal year 2022, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$7,500,000, to remain available until expended, for the purposes of carrying out this section, including the amendments made by this section.

(2) SSA APPROPRIATION.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Social Security Administration for fiscal year 2022, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$16,000,000, to remain available until expended, for the purposes of carrying out this section (with the exception of the purposes set forth in subsection (c)(3)(B)), including the amendments made by this section.

(3) OFPM APPROPRIATION.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Office of Personnel Management for fiscal year 2022, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$70,500,000, to remain available until expended, for the purposes of carrying out this section, including the amendments made by this section.

Page 30, beginning on line 20, strike “Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services—Program Management” and insert “the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services—Program Management Account”.

Page 31, line 11, after “out”, insert “subsection (c)(3) for the purposes set forth in”.

Page 32, strike lines 1 through 5 and insert the following:

(4) FUNDS CREDITED BY POSTAL SERVICE.—The United States Postal Service shall deposit an amount equal to the sum of the amounts appropriated under paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) into the Treasury as a miscellaneous receipt from the Postal Service Fund in fiscal year 2022.

Page 32, line 15, strike “described in subsection (c)(3)(B)” and insert “described in subsection (c)(3) for the purpose set forth in subsection (c)(3)(B)”.

Page 48, line 17, insert “for each product” after “performance”.

Page 48, line 21, insert “for each product” after “compliance”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 912, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of this manager’s amendment to H.R. 3076, which makes minor technical changes to the bill. We have already discussed this bill at length so I will be brief.

The Postal Service is one of America’s most vital and respected institutions. Every American benefits from the services it provides. This bill will dramatically improve the financial situation of the Postal Service and will allow it to continue providing its essential services for years to come. The technical changes made by the manager’s amendment will help ensure that the bill is implemented swiftly and effectively.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to vote “yes” on this amendment, but before that, I want to really give my heartfelt thanks to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, the staff, that

made this happen, particularly Mark Stephenson and Ethan VanNess.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER), my friend, the ranking member.

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the amendment.

Madam Speaker, as we have worked together on the Postal Service Reform Act over the past year, Chairwoman MALONEY and I strove to fully incorporate the legislative feedback we received from the relevant agencies. This manager’s amendment contains necessary technical fixes to ensure the bill’s requirements are efficiently and effectively implemented.

For instance, it ensures that the U.S. Postal Service, and not the American taxpayer, fully cover the implementation costs of the Office of Personnel Management, Social Security Administration, and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Madam Speaker, I thank the chairwoman and the Committee on Oversight and Reform staff for working diligently with me to make sure this bill is done right.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I urge passage of this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. HAYES). Pursuant to the rule, the previous question is ordered on the bill and on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY).

The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY).

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

FURTHER ADDITIONAL CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 912, I call up the bill (H.R. 6617) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 912, the bill is considered read.