

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 26, 2020

Louis DeJoy
Postmaster General
U.S. Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza West, S.W.
Washington, DC 20260

Dear Postmaster General DeJoy:

We are writing to express our great concern over recent policy changes that have led to delays in mail delivery at the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) and are putting older Americans at greater risk of financial insecurity during an already precarious time. Despite your August 18th announcement that all changes being made to the Postal Service would be suspended until after the November 3rd election, operational initiatives already in place – including reductions in post office hours and limitations on blue collection boxes and mail processing capacity - must also be reversed in order to preserve many seniors reliable and timely access to their Social Security benefits.

Throughout its existence, the USPS has connected millions of Americans with one another, often serving as the only reliable means of sending and receiving mail and packages for rural communities. During this pandemic, the USPS has played a vital role in preserving our nation's health and well-being by delivering prescription drugs, Social Security checks and social correspondence to rural Americans, people with disabilities, and seniors most vulnerable to the virus.

Under the leadership of President Barack Obama, the Social Security Administration modernized to give people the ability to receive their Social Security benefits through direct deposit. However, according to data from the Social Security Administration, 549,818 people still receive their monthly benefit through mail delivered by the USPS. Older Americans and people with disabilities living on fixed income rely on their Social Security checks arriving consistently and on time to pay their bills - an assurance that has been jeopardized by changes implemented under your leadership. In total, the Social Security Administration sends an estimated 350 million pieces of mail a year, from notices to replacement cards, to accomplish the mission trusted to the agency for more than eight decades. The recent operational changes at the USPS have led to mail delays that are causing unnecessary financial stress for many seniors.

Social Security is the bedrock of the American dream, a hard-earned benefit that supports seniors' ability to retire with dignity and independence and provides a regular income to those who experience significant disabilities that prevent them from continuing to work. For the nearly 40 percent of older Americans that rely on Social Security benefits as their sole source of income in retirement, timely mail delivery is critical to the ability to pay bills on time. To protect the retirement and financial security of Older Americans and people with disabilities, and ensure they are supported with the

resources needed to stay safely at home during this crisis, we urge you to address outstanding mail delays immediately.

Sincerely,



Deb Haaland
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress

/s/
Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress

/s/
Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress

/s/
Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

/s/
André Carson
Member of Congress

/s/
Ted Deutch
Member of Congress

/s/
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

/s/
Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress

/s/
Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress

/s/
Bill Foster
Member of Congress

/s/
Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress

/s/
Susan A. Davis
Member of Congress

/s/
Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

/s/
David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

/s/
Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress

/s/
Susan Wild
Member of Congress

/s/
Lori Trahan
Member of Congress

/s/
John. B. Larson
Member of Congress

/s/
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

/s/
Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

/s/
Katie Porter
Member of Congress

/s/
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

