



# Legislative Letters

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Monthly Newsletter of the Arizona State Association of Letter Carriers

## **H.R. 7629: Protect Our Letter Carriers Act Introduced**

Enough is Enough – our rally at the Arizona State Capitol was a success and the rallies continue throughout the nation. Late last month we saw the introduction of HR 7629 Protect our Letter Carriers Act – This bill accomplishes three things:

- Provides \$7B over 5 years for the replacement of the arrow lock system, devaluing the keys which make us prime targets.
- Designates prosecutors in each of the 94 judicial districts to prioritize crimes against letter carriers, yielding a greater percentage of prosecutions in these cases.
- Lastly, calls for stricter sentencing guidelines for those convicted, similar to those enforced against federal law enforcement officers.

What we need is for all of our members to start contacting our representatives on the hill. National has made this abundantly simple. Go to [NALC.ORG](http://NALC.ORG) -> Government Affairs -> Legislative Action Center -> Take Action... you'll see all the bills we are currently pushing. At the top is HR 7629, click Take Action again, it's going to ask you to login or register – you fill out your information, it brings up your representatives and you click to send the email. That simple.

We are gearing up for a national day of action regarding the bill, until then, contact your representative, let them know we need their support. This is the legislation we need, taking away the reason we are being attacked; ensuring those who do commit the crimes are prosecuted; and enforcing sentencing strong enough to deter the crimes in the first place.

When we talk about the Letter Carrier Political Fund, and how it is non-partisan, this most recent bill is a prime example. Authored and introduced by a Congressman from Pennsylvania, Brian Fitzpatrick, a Republican. At the press conference announcing the bill, with Representative Fitzpatrick, the Democrat Minority Leader, Hakeem Jeffries, also attended in support of the bill. These aren't Republican issues, not Democrat issues – these are letter carrier issues – and that's what our PAC supports. If you're not signed up contact any member of the ASALC and we will be happy to assist.

### **HR 82: 311 Cosponsors and Counting!**

Since our last issue, the bill has gained additional cosponsors and continues to gain momentum on Capitol Hill.

On March 4th, Virginia Representative Abigail Spanberger and Louisiana Representative Garret Graves pushed for the U.S. House Ways and Means Committee to hold a markup on the important bipartisan legislation.

HR 82, the Social Security Fairness Act, would reform the cruel provisions of the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset, both of which reduce the pensions of retired NALC members by thousands of dollars each year.

Please continue to contact representatives Schweikert, Crane, and Biggs, who are the only three members of the Arizona House delegation who have not signed on as cosponsors. As we continue our push to bring this bill to a vote, please keep the pressure up!

Retired members who suffer because of the cruel provisions of the WEP and the GPO deserve to have equality with their pensions and this legislation is the best way for us to make that happen. Do not wait!

**Did you know** on the NALC Website, under the NALC Legislative Action Center, you can:

- Find your representatives and senators, and can contact them;
- Access NALC fact sheets on our priority issues and legislation;
- Learn more about bills in the House and Senate;
- Take action on issues that matter to letter carriers;

Please take the time to check out this site. Stay politically informed of bills and resolutions. Contact lawmakers about these issues that are important to us by using the QR code below!



Take Action Page



HR 7629 Fact Sheet



HR 82 Fact Sheet

Did you receive this issue from someone else? You could have gotten it from us! To be added to the mailing list, send us an email at:

[ArizonaLetterCarriers@gmail.com](mailto:ArizonaLetterCarriers@gmail.com)

Just include your name and your branch number and we will make sure you are added to all of our future communications!

## Congressional Lobbying Training

State Officers, Letter Carrier Congressional Liasons and branch activists gathered at the Branch 576 union hall in Phoenix on March 17 to learn all the fundamentals of lobbying from our very own Legislative and Political Organizer, John Beaumont. The informative training was well received and we cannot wait to put it to use during upcoming meetings regarding H.R. 7629.



## Senator Kyrsten Sinema Drops Out of Race for Senate

On March 5th, sitting Arizona Senator Kyrsten Sinema announced she would not be seeking re-election. Almost immediately, much of the support that Sinema had garnered in her potential re-election campaign shifted to Representative Ruben Gallego, the Democratic nominee for the seat.



On March 25th, a group of local labor unions held a reception in support of Congressman Gallego at the ATU Local 1433 hall in Phoenix. The event was attended by President Tim Fisher, Vice President Eric Gregorovic, and Letter Carrier Congressional Liasons Cynthia Staley, Nicolas Aragon Jr, and Mary Halford.



Our website is undergoing renovations and will be back up and running soon!

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