



NRLCA FACT SHEET

National Rural Letter Carriers' Association
1630 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-3467
Telephone: 703-684-5545
www.nrlca.org

NRLCA Urges Support for the Protect Our Letter Carriers Act (H.R. 1065/S. 463)

The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) delivers essential products such as prescription medications, packages, checks, ballots, and other important mail to roughly 153 million residences six to seven days a week. As rural letter carriers, we understand the dangers of delivering in rural and remote areas where help can be miles away. Recently, letter carriers are facing an increased threat of robberies and mail theft.

Despite the USPS' launch of Project Safe Delivery, which has resulted in hundreds of arrests for crimes against postal employees, we continue to see an alarming rate of attacks against letter carriers. A 2024 Government Accountability Office study found that these attacks were increasing, and that many of these attacks were targeting Arrow keys, keys that unlock multiple cluster boxes, sometimes for entire zip codes. In the wrong hands, these Arrow keys can allow thieves to steal life preserving medications, checks, and documents needed to carry out identity theft on a large scale.

Bipartisan, bicameral legislation has been introduced to address the recent increase in crimes committed against letter carriers and to protect the nation's mail. H.R. 1065/S.463, the Protect Our Letter Carriers Act, provides \$7 billion over 5 years for the installation of high-security collection boxes and replaces outdated Arrow keys with a newer electronic version, which can easily be disabled after a theft. The legislation also calls for a designated assistant in every U.S. attorney's office to oversee the investigation and prosecution of alleged crimes against letter carriers. Finally, the legislation calls for any crime committed against a letter carrier to receive a more severe sentence recommendation by amending sentencing guidelines.

NRLCA Position:

NRLCA supports H.R 1065/S. 463, legislation that will protect our nation's mail and the letter carriers that deliver it each day. This bill will replace old Arrow keys with a new electronic version which can be disabled in the event of a theft, or attack on a letter carrier. The bill also improves the sentencing guidelines of crimes committed against postal employees and appoints assistant U.S attorneys with the responsibility of prosecuting crimes against postal employees. The NRLCA urges all members of Congress to co-sponsor this legislation.