

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051
MINORITY (202) 225-5074
<https://oversight.house.gov>

Chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney

Subcommittee on Government Operations Hearing

“Waiting on the Mail: Postal Service Standard Drops in Chicago and the Surrounding Area”

October 15, 2021

Thank you, Chairman Connolly for holding this important hearing and Congressman Danny Davis for requesting this hearing.

The Postal Service is one of our nation’s most cherished institutions. Our dedicated postal employees deliver to 161 million locations, 6-days a week—regardless of the weather. The Postal Service binds our nation together in a way that no other institution can, and ensures that millions of Americans have access to the medications and other materials they need every day.

Unfortunately, as we all know well, the Postal Service’s performance has been slow and often unreliable since Postmaster General DeJoy made changes last summer without testing them first, and without communicating fully with employees or customers. In many of our districts, we are hearing from constituents about significant delays in the delivery of mail, medicines, food, and other supplies.

These delays are especially concerning—and potentially life-threatening—as the coronavirus pandemic continues to affect many Americans, impacting many people who rely heavily on the Postal Service for essential items. While some of these changes were reversed, delivery has remained unacceptably slow ever since, particularly in cities like Chicago and Baltimore.

We understand that the pandemic has made staffing difficult for the Postal Service, and that it has been facing record-breaking package volumes, particularly during last years’ peak season in December. But these issues are not insurmountable, and the recent delays are unacceptable.

In fact, it is the responsibility of the Postal Service, and Postmaster General DeJoy in particular, to find ways to overcome these difficulties and get mail delivered on time. To do this, it is critical that Postal Service leadership remember that it is not a private business, but a public service.

We all want the Postal Service to be financially viable. That is why we have been working to get the Postal Service Reform Act on the floor as soon as possible. This bipartisan bill would put the Postal Service on a sustainable financial footing for years to come.

But allowing service to suffer while at the same time increasing prices will not increase the public’s faith in the Postal Service. In fact, it might end up pushing people and businesses away from using the Postal Service. We must not allow the Postal Service to fail. It must continue providing the critical services that millions of Americans depend on.

I look forward to today’s discussion and again thank Chairman Connolly for holding this important hearing.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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