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February 28, 2022

Immediate Release

Hudson County Board of Commissioners urges the United States Senate to pass the Postal Service Reform Act (H.R. 3076)

Hudson County- Hudson County Board of Commissioners urges the United States Senate to pass the Postal Service Reform Act (H.R. 3076)

H.R. 3076, the Postal Service Reform Act, cleared the U.S. House of Representatives by a vote of 342-92 on February 8, 2022; the proposed law would require retired postal employees to enroll in Medicare when eligible, while dropping a previous mandate that forced the agency to cover its health care costs years in advance.

Maximizing Medicare participation when active postal employees retire and reach age 65 will reduce health care costs for both the Postal Service and participants. Because Medicare is the first-payer insurer for its enrollees, the costs covered by postal-only health plans will be reduced. This would reduce the Postal Service's health care expenses by hundreds of millions of dollars annually and reduce its future liability for retiree health

benefits by approximately \$50 billion over the next decade according to the House Oversight Committee.

The proposed Postal Service Reform Act would also codify an integrated delivery network of packages and mail together six days a week. This provision is supported by the Postal Service, the Postal Regulatory Commission, mailers and shippers. This is a critical service for senior citizens who depend on the Postal Service for prescription delivery, and for small businesses which get products to their customers with the Postal Service's affordable prices. It is especially important in rural America where the Postal Service is often the only carrier.

Throughout the pandemic, postal workers have reliably delivered everything from medications, essential goods, family letters and holiday gifts to citizens across the country. Door-to-door delivery services never stopped because of the 6-day integrated delivery network, which the Postal Service Reform Act would codify into law.

Established in 1775, the Postal Service is among the country's oldest government institutions, yet it operates with few of the financial benefits of being a federal agency while still bearing many of the costs. Unlike other government agencies, the Postal Service generally does not receive taxpayer funding, and instead must rely on revenue from stamps and package deliveries to support it. Unlike private courier services, the Postal Service does get to set its own prices or excise unprofitable routes. Instead, Congress sets the postage rate and stipulates that the Postal Service delivers to all homes in America.

Board Chairman Anthony Vainieri along with the Board of Commissioners urges the U.S. Senate to pass the Postal Service Reform Act (H.R. 3076). Copies of this Resolution will be transmitted to President Joseph Biden, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, and Senators Bob Menendez and Cory Booker.

