



## *Preserve Postal Service with easy fix*

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Like most Americans, I value and depend on our U.S. Postal Service. It provides great service for a minimal price, and our local postal workers go out of their way to be helpful.

Our Postal Service is currently facing bankruptcy and planning drastic cut-backs, starting May 12, unless Congress acts quickly to relieve its financial situation.

The emergency it faces is completely unnecessary.

Its primary cause is a section of the 2006 Postal Act, which requires the USPS to prefund 50 years of retiree health benefits, front-loaded for the first 10 years at an average rate of about \$5.6 billion per year - roughly the amount of its annual losses. (This is in addition to paying health benefits for current retirees.) The libertarian Cato Institute has noted that "prefunding health benefits is unique to the USPS within the public sector, and it is not required in the private sector."

Apparently, the USPS also has been overfunding its payments to the Federal Employee's Retirement System for many years.

To preserve the quality of our postal service, Congress needs to remove the ridiculous pre-payment requirement and allow the USPS to use the accumulated funds from both overpayments to pay for retiree health care and retirement benefits in the normal way.

Congress needs to break out of its self-centered deadlock and fix this quickly.

Readers: I urge you to contact our congressman and senators immediately. Tell them to get to work and rescue our postal system now, while there is still time.