

Postal Service Reform Debate Raises New Concerns for Mail Reliability

Quick Take: Postmaster General David Steiner is urging Congress to give the U.S. Postal Service greater flexibility to cut costs, including potential changes to six-day delivery, service standards, post office operations, and First-Class Mail pricing. In remarks at the May 8 USPS Board of Governors meeting, Steiner said the Postal Service’s current business model is “unsustainable” and warned that changes could mean “reduced levels of service and higher rates” for the American public.

Dive Deeper: For the printing and mailing community, this is a critical moment. USPS is not just another delivery provider; it is an essential national infrastructure that connects businesses, consumers, rural communities, nonprofits, publishers, and manufacturers. Changes to six-day delivery or the Universal Service Obligation could have serious downstream impacts on print, mail, catalogs, periodicals, billing statements, direct mail, and other essential communications.

Keep US Posted has urged Congress to preserve the Universal Service Obligation, including six-day mail and package delivery to every address, while also calling for reforms that keep postal rates affordable for consumers and small businesses. The coalition has also supported limiting rate increases to once per year and restoring stronger price discipline so USPS remains a reliable and cost-effective communications channel.

The Coalition for a 21st Century Postal Service has similarly emphasized the importance of a financially stable and commercially viable Postal Service. C21 represents the broader business mailing and packaging supply chain and has noted that USPS must continue serving nearly 170 million addresses while balancing declining mail volumes, rising costs, and the fixed costs of universal service.

Why It Matters: A weaker postal network does not only affect USPS. It affects the entire print and mailing ecosystem, including printers, mailers, publishers,



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marketers, suppliers, and the millions of American jobs connected to mail. PRINTING United Alliance continues to support practical reforms that strengthen USPS finances without undermining reliable, affordable, universal service.

Reducing delivery days, closing access points, or accelerating rate increases could push more volume out of the mail, creating a cycle of higher costs and lower usage. That is especially concerning for rural communities, small businesses, and industries that depend on predictable delivery standards.

What’s Next: Congress will play a central role in determining the future of USPS. The Alliance will continue working with Keep US Posted, C21, and other postal stakeholders to advocate for reforms that protect universal service, maintain six-day delivery, improve USPS accountability, and ensure the Postal Service remains a dependable partner for the printing industry and the customers we serve.

Bottom Line: USPS needs reform, but reform should strengthen the postal network—not shrink access to it. For print, mail, and the American public, reliable and affordable universal service must remain the foundation of any path forward. ■

CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE

Workforce Bill Highlights Need for Stronger Print Talent Pipeline

As manufacturers continue to face persistent workforce challenges, Congress is again considering how to modernize the nation's primary federal workforce development law. A *Stronger Workforce for America Act* (H.R. 8210) would reauthorize and update the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act* (WIOA), which supports employment, education, training, and related workforce services. The bill advanced out of the House Committee on Education and Workforce on April 21, 2026.

PRINTING United Alliance supports efforts to reauthorize WIOA and better align federal workforce programs with employer needs. For the printing industry, a modernized workforce system must support skills-based hiring, apprenticeships, incumbent worker training, and stronger partnerships among employers, education providers, and local workforce boards.

Several provisions in the bill reflect those priorities. The legislation would direct more adult and dislocated

worker funding toward training activities, including Individual Training Accounts, on-the-job learning, and upskilling opportunities. It would also encourage competency-based assessments that recognize prior learning, an important approach for an industry where many skills are developed through hands-on experience.

The bill would also create a Critical Industry Skills Fund to support training programs in sectors facing workforce shortages. This could be meaningful for print employers seeking press operators, bindery workers, technicians, sales professionals, graphic communications specialists, and workers prepared for automation, data, and advanced manufacturing technologies.

In addition, the legislation includes provisions to strengthen career and technical education, apprenticeships, and community college workforce training. It would establish a Youth Apprenticeship Readiness Grant Program and automatically include

registered apprenticeship providers and Workforce Pell providers on eligible training provider lists.

However, the bill faces political hurdles. A proposed transfer of certain adult education programs from the U.S. Department of Education to the U.S. Department of Labor has drawn opposition from the House minority and weakened

bipartisan support, making final passage uncertain.

For the printing industry, the goal remains clear: Congress should reauthorize WIOA in a way that helps employers recruit, train, upskill, and retain a skilled workforce. The Alliance will continue to monitor the legislation and report on any developments. ■

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CONGRESSMAN MARIO DÍAZ-BALART VISITS BINCA IMAGING GROUP, LLC

Representative Mario Díaz-Balart (R-FL-25) visited Binca Imaging Group, LLC in Doral, Florida on March 31, 2026. Founded over 20 years ago, Binca has become one of the most well-known wide-format printers in South Florida and finds itself at the forefront of technological advancements in the printing industry. Rep. Díaz-Balart toured the facility and met with employees to learn how modern print manufacturing supports local jobs and economic growth in Florida's 26th Congressional District. PRINTING United Alliance thanks President Gilberto Huertas for hosting the site visit, building a positive relationship with the congressman, and showcasing the value of print.

TWC TRACKS FEDERAL WORKFORCE PRIORITIES

PRINTING United Alliance continues to engage with **Tomorrow's Workforce Coalition** (TWC) as implementation moves forward on the recent expansion of 529 education savings accounts to cover certain workforce credentials. During TWC's May meeting, members discussed reauthorization and updates to the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act* (WIOA), Workforce Pell implementation, registered apprenticeship expansion, and new federal efforts to better align training programs with employer demand. Members also discussed the growing role of artificial intelligence (AI) in workforce planning and the importance of stronger employer engagement in training program design. The Alliance plans to join a summer meeting with the **U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration** to share association community priorities and discuss opportunities to strengthen industry-designed workforce solutions.

RECYCLING LEADERSHIP COUNCIL PUSHES FOR RMAA MARK-UP

PRINTING United Alliance is supporting efforts to advance **H.R. 7502, the Recycled Materials Attribution Act (RMAA)**, legislation that would direct the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to update its Green Guides, among other provisions. The Recycling Leadership Council (RLC) is actively urging lawmakers to move the RMAA through a mark-up in the **House Energy and Commerce Committee** before Congress departs for its August recess. Coalition members are meeting with lawmakers to build bipartisan support for the legislation. The timing is especially important as the FTC is expected to appear before the House Energy and Commerce Committee sometime in July.

Recycling Legislation

MOVES FORWARD IN THE HOUSE

BY STEPHANIE A. BUKA

On May 21, 2026, two bipartisan recycling bills advanced in the U.S. House of Representatives, marking progress on federal efforts to strengthen recycling access, infrastructure, and data collection.

H.R. 2145, *The Recycling Infrastructure and Accessibility Act (RIAA)* passed both the House Subcommittee on the Environment and the full House Energy and Commerce Committee. The bill is designed to improve recycling access in underserved communities, helping more Americans participate in local recycling programs.

During committee consideration, H.R. 4109, *The Recycling and Composting Accountability Act (RCAA)* was added to RIAA as an amendment. RCAA would help the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency improve recycling and composting measurement, data, and reporting tools; an important step toward better understanding and improving the nation's recycling system.

PRINTING United Alliance has long supported both bills since their introduction in the 117th Congress. They are also endorsed by a broad coalition of stakeholders including manufacturers,

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consumer brands, trade groups, and environmental organizations. The unanimous committee vote marks another step toward recycling investment needed to work towards solving recycling's toughest challenges nationwide.

Together, the bills would advance the nation's recycling capabilities, support a robust and circular economy, and help secure critical domestic supply chains. Investing in the recycling infrastructure and system is investing in a more productive and resilient American economy.

The legislation now moves to the full House for consideration. The Alliance urges the full House to pass the RIAA with all due speed. ■

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