August 27, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ron Johnson  
Chairman, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Gary C. Peters  
Ranking Member, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, Chairman Johnson, and Ranking Member Peters:

On behalf of the 87 LGBTQ civil rights and community organizations listed below, we write to urge you to immediately bring the Senate back into session and take up the bipartisan House-passed Delivering for America Act (H.R. 8015).

The United States Postal Service (USPS) has played a fundamental role in establishing and preserving our unity as a country. With Benjamin Franklin at the helm as the first Postmaster General, the creation of the USPS in 1775 was critical to the transformation of our nation into a true union. Ever since, the USPS has helped drive our economy and has kept communities connected and safe. Even as our nation grew to ten times its original size, Americans from Maui to Maine continue to enjoy the benefits of this national treasure. It provides an invaluable service that enjoys overwhelming bipartisan adoration (91% approval by both Republicans and Democrats, according to Pew Research).

In light of this long history of providing an invaluable and irreplaceable service, the public is understandably and justifiably alarmed by recent efforts to undermine the USPS at a time when many depend on this vital service more than ever. Tens of millions of people will rely on the USPS this year to register to vote, to receive polling information, and to vote by mail. Voters should be able to receive a mail-in ballot, and have confidence that their completed ballot will be delivered promptly to election officials. Particularly during a deadly health pandemic, the USPS should be given the resources that it needs to deliver mail-in ballots in a timely manner, as no one should have to choose between protecting their health and exercising their right to vote.

LGBTQ people are particularly at risk of having health complications due to a coronavirus infection because they are more likely to have compromised respiratory systems. For example, 21% of LGBTQ people have asthma compared to 14% of non-LGBTQ people.

The postal service’s importance goes well beyond the election. We represent communities that are especially dependent upon the mail for prescription medications, especially medications for transgender people and people living with HIV. The reliance on the postal service is also especially profound for those in our communities of advanced age or with disabilities, and/or those living in rural or Native communities who often lack other affordable delivery options.
There are nearly 4 million LGBTQ people living in rural America and 3 million LGBTQ people 50 years of age and older. It is no overstatement to say that the health and well-being of millions of people depends on a secure and reliable USPS.

To ensure that the USPS can continue to play the vital role it always has for our economy, our health, and our democracy, it is imperative that the Senate return to session and pass H.R. 8015, the Delivering for America Act. This is a bipartisan issue, and we urge you to exercise the leadership necessary to ensure the health and stability of this crucial institution.

Sincerely,

Advocates for Youth
AIDS United
Athlete Ally
Center for Disability Rights
Family Equality
FORGE, Inc.
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality
Human Rights Campaign
Lambda Legal
Minority Veterans of America
Modern Military Association of America
Movement Advancement Project
National Black Justice Coalition
National Center for Transgender Equality
National Equality Action Team (NEAT)
National LGBT Cancer Network
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund
Out & Equal
People For the American Way
PFLAG National
Planned Parenthood Action Fund
PowerOn, a program of LGBT Technology Institute
Pride at Work
SAGE (Advocacy and Services for LGBT Elders)
The Fenway Institute
The Trevor Project
TransFamily Support Services

State/Local Organizations
Atlanta Pride Committee
Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center
Brooklyn Community Pride Center
Center on Halsted
Compass LGBTQ Community Center
Equality California
Equality Community Center
Equality North Carolina
Four Corners Rainbow Youth Center
Gay City: Seattle's LGBTQ Center
GenderNexus
Guilford Green Foundation & LGBTQ Center
Howard Brown Health
Hudson Valley LGBTQ Community Center, Inc.
Identity, Inc.
Jacksonville Area Sexual Minority Youth Network, Inc. (JASMYN)
LGBTQ Center Orange County
LGBT Center of Greater Reading
LGBTQ Community Center of the Desert
Los Angeles LGBT Center
Mazzoni Center
Newark LGBTQ Community Center
North County (San Diego) LGBTQ Resource Center
Oakland LGBTQ Community Center
Oklahomans for Equality Dennis R Neill Equality Center
one-n-ten
Out Boulder County
OutCenter of Southwest Michigan
OutFront Kalamazoo
OutNebraska
Perceptions
Pride Center of Staten Island
Pride Center of the Capital Region
Pride Center San Antonio
Pride Community Center, Inc
Pride Community Services Organization
Rainbow Families
Resource Center (Dallas, TX)
Rockland County Pride Center
Sacramento LGBT Community Center
Seacoast Outright
Shenandoah LGBTQ Center
Silver State Equality-Nevada
SOJOURN
Stonewall Columbus
The Center on Colfax
The Gala Pride and Diversity Center
The LGBT Center
The LGBTQ+ Community Center of Southern Nevada
The LOFT LGBT Center
The Montrose Center
The Pride Center at Equality Park
The San Diego LGBT Community Center
The Source LGBT+ Center
The Spahr Center
Transgender Michigan
TriVersity Center for Gender and Sexual Diversity
Waves Ahead Puerto Rico
We Are Family
William Way LGBT Community Center