

The Postal Service is a lifeline to rural communities. While some Americans have had the opportunity to work from home during this pandemic, our letter carriers and postmasters do not. They're working tirelessly to ensure people in every corner to the country are getting their mail and packages, which for our at-risk population, has been especially critical.

I've been supportive of the \$25 billion in emergency funding included in this legislation and I'm relieved that at the urging of members like myself and the postal workers, a dangerous private right of action provision, which would have allowed trial lawyers to take advantage of the 2020 election, was removed.

As someone who has worked across the aisle to support the Postal Service, I was disappointed when it recently became a political weapon.

We should not be politicizing the Postal Service and in turn, the thousands of hard-working employees that serve each of our districts.

As Ranking Member of House Administration, I'll tell you that, while I'm supportive of this bill, it is not going to solve our election administration problems.

Despite early warnings from the Postal Service, at least eighteen states still have ballot request and return policies that are incompatible with their delivery standards, which significantly increases the risk of disenfranchising voters.

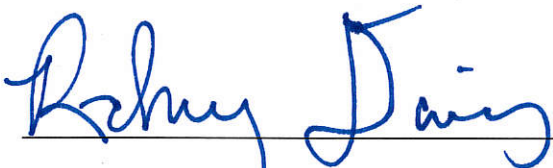
We saw hundreds of thousands of ballots during recent primaries across the country go uncounted for this very issue. NPR estimates nearly a half a million were rejected – disproportionately disenfranchising minority and younger voters.

Despite early warnings from the Postal Service, unrealistic ballot request and return policies continue to be one of the biggest impediments to ensuring every vote is counted.

A recent poll found 59% of Americans still prefer to vote in person, yet there's nothing in this bill to help states allow people to safely go to the polls.

So I'm not voting for this bill because I think the post office is trying to sabotage our elections, I'm voting for this bill because we're in the middle of a pandemic, the Postal Service is vital to our society, and they need our help.

And while I'm glad we're back here for a special session to help the Postal Service, I wish we were also voting on a deal to help our schools, small businesses, and the millions of people still out of work because of the pandemic.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Rodney Davis", is written over a horizontal line.

Rodney Davis (IL-13)