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[Stamped Out: Baton Rouge's Tameka Brown at National Press Club Highlights How Privatizing USPS Will Harm Rural America](#)

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Photo of Tameka Brown speaking at the National Press Club News Conference on March 25, 2025.

(Image by Taylor Branson) [Details](#) [DMCA](#)

"We the People' own the postal service, not the current administration... or any administration," [stated](#) Don Maston, the President of the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, at a panel at the National Press Club on March 25, 2025. The Trump administration and DOGE's "head" Elon Musk have suggested the privatization of the U.S. Postal Service, which many Americans may not think would impact them on a day-to-day basis. However, privatization of USPS would have a profound impact on the more than [500,000](#) USPS employees and millions of Americans that rely on the USPS for its services - especially those in rural areas.

One of these USPS employees, Tameka Brown of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, serves the rural community of Denham Springs, twenty minutes outside Baton Rouge, on her carrier route and expressed concerns about the impact of the potential privatization of the U.S. Postal Service on the customers she works with daily. "They depend on us," Brown [said](#). She [added](#) that USPS is more than just "carrying the mail and parcels... we're a service to them."

This service is in danger of disappearing and will impact Brown's customers directly. "They're scared," stated Brown, but she [urged](#) U.S. customers to be vigilant. "Call your elected officials, because we're the lifeline for [customers]... and we're trying to fight for the American people."

Tameka's concerns were echoed by other panelists. A downsizing or privatization of USPS would heavily impact rural communities. Over [51 million](#) Americans in rural areas rely on the USPS every day. These people may have to travel outside their communities to cities which they may not have the means to do. Brown states that the people she serves in Denham Springs are scared of what could happen next. Additionally, Maston built off Brown's experience as a carrier in rural America, highlighting how privatization could impact the rural elderly. Many rely on medication delivery that, if privatized, could become far too expensive or even nonexistent. This further could disadvantage the approximately [6 million](#) rural Americans that live in poverty, who may not have financial access or transportation to access goods and services in cities that may be miles away.

"We serve everyone, everywhere, no matter where you live, for the same price, everyday" [stated](#) Brian Renfroe, another member of the panel and the President of the NALC, highlighting a major misconception that is used in the DOGE rhetoric about "saving taxpayer money." Importantly, the United States Postal Service does [not](#) use any taxpayer dollars to fund any facilities. Instead, all revenue comes from the products and services that the USPS provides.

As the USPS looks for a new Postmaster General, all three panelists shared the same sentiments that new leadership must stand in opposition to destruction of public services and maintain that the USPS serves the people, and not billionaires. Additionally, the panelists acknowledged the need for reform of the post office. The [1970 Postal Reorganization Act](#) signed by President Nixon saw the creation of the United States Postal Service and the model of a public service that operates like a business. As the internet has dramatically changed the way Americans communicate, the post office needs to do the same - but not by selling it off to the highest bidder. USPS needs to modernize to efficiently compete in the 21st century.

Mark Dimondstein, President of the American Postal Workers, spoke of optimism for the USPS, highlighting opportunities to grow. The post office should do more - Dimondstein suggests that the USPS should offer more services to expand their revenue base, including offering financial services, boating or fishing licenses, or even TSA pre-checks.

The USPS offers a unique service for both US citizens and the government, and should not be overlooked and sold off to the highest bidder. All the speakers agreed that prices would rise dramatically under privatization. "This is a struggle versus Wall Street and Main Street," Dimondstein [said](#), "a few people would gain more wealth...but the people of the country would lose out with higher prices [and] less service."

Robert Weiner was Chief of Staff of the U.S. House Aging Committee under Cong. Claude Pepper, spokesman for White House Drug Czar and Four-Star General Barry McCaffrey, as well as spokesman for the Government Operations Committee under Rep. John Conyers, assistant to Rep. Ed Koch, and aide to Senator Ted Kennedy.

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