

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

May 11, 2015

Mr. David Mastroianni
Connecticut Valley District Manager
United States Postal Service
141 Weston Street
Hartford, CT 06101

Dear Mr. Mastroianni,

We have heard from a number of constituents regarding a recent change in accessibility to the Seymour Post Office which has created an unacceptable burden for persons with disabilities. We are writing to strongly urge you to expeditiously restore equal access to the Seymour Post Office.

This facility was accessible to all until a recent change limited the number of entrances with the stated purpose of providing safer access for postal customers. We understand and appreciate the need to provide for the safety of all postal service customers, as well as the practical difficulties of ensuring equal access at an historic building, but the current situation must be improved in the interest of fairness to all Seymour residents and compliance with federal law.

The expectation that customers with disabilities must set up on-street appointments or use a call-in number to arrange a time for service is an unreasonable one. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, the burden to provide accommodations falls on federal facilities, not on disabled persons themselves. Intentionally or not, the status quo has that equation backwards.

We have fought and advocated for improved access to federally funded facilities for people with disabilities. The USPS has previously worked with communities to find adequate solutions, so that their buildings are accessible to all customers, regardless of disability. It is our hope that the USPS will comply with the spirit and letter of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Architectural Barriers Act.

We therefore respectfully request that the USPS work with the Town of Seymour and the community to provide equal access to the Seymour Post Office. We also ask that you keep our offices updated on any developments in this matter.


Sincerely,



RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
United States Senator



CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY
United States Senator



ROSA DELAURO
Member of Congress