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***The NRLN advocates the rights of more than 2 million
American retirees from...***

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April 5, 2021

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2107 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-3006

Dear Chairman Pallone:

On behalf of the more than 2 million retirees and future
retirees represented by the National Retiree Legislative
Network (NRLN), I am requesting that you call for a
vote in the Committee on Energy and Commerce on
**H.R. 1106, Help Extend Auditory Relief (HEAR) Act of
2021.**

Passage of the **HEAR Act** is important to seniors
because it would amend the Social Security Act to
include Medicare coverage for hearing rehabilitation,
including a comprehensive audiology assessment and
if necessary, Medicare Part B would cover the cost of
hearing aids.

Currently, Medicare Part B covers auditory examinations
in the event of an accident or illness, but not routine
checkups or hearing aids. When a hearing device is
prescribed, the out-of-pocket expense is often
impossible to afford. Typical hearing aids can cost over
\$1,000, with the most state-of-the-art devices topping
\$5,000. People who need devices for both ears face
double the cost.

Hearing loss among older Americans is common. If
not addressed their quality of life is reduced and
serious conditions like depression and anxiety often
happen.

If you would like to learn more about why the NRLN
supports passage of **H.R. 1106**, please contact me or
Alyson Parker, NRLN Executive Director, on her cell
phone at 813-545-6792 or executivedirector@nrln.org.

Sincerely,

Bill Kadereit, President
National Retiree Legislative Network
Phone: 972-722-5928
Email: president@nrln.org