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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 Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2107 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-3006

Dear Representative McMorris Rodgers:

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 support calling 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](mailto:executivedirector@nrln.org).

Sincerely,

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