



***NRLN Review*, Summary for January 2020**

The ***NRLN Review*** provides a monthly report on National Retiree Legislative Network actions, events in Congress and important retirement news.

NRLN Launches 2020 Video Series

On January 8, NRLN President Bill Kadereit issued an NRLN President's Forum message to announce the launch of the NRLN 2020 video series that is posted on the NRLN website at www.nrln.org and on [www.Facebook.com/nrln1](https://www.facebook.com/nrln1). In the first video Kadereit presented a profile on the National Retiree Legislative Network and the American Retirees Education Foundation. It also provided information on what is available on the NRLN website and showed the website's primary navigation icons, such as signing up to receive NRLN emails and responding to our Action Alerts.

What Caused the Medicare Financial Crisis? is the video that will be posted in early February. It will be the first video in a three-part series on the use of Medicare Advantage plans to move Medicare toward privatization.

NRLN Action Alert Issued on Elimination of "Stretch IRA"

NRLN issued an Action Alert on January 13 in response to the Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act of 2019, referred to as the SECURE Act, that was enacted in December as part of the fiscal year 2020 appropriations bill.

Part of the SECURE Act eliminated what was known as the "stretch IRA" which allowed heirs to inherit IRAs and take required minimum yearly distributions on them during their own lifetimes. The new law mandates that beneficiaries, who are over the age of majority and not disabled nor married to the IRA owner, must withdraw the entirety of the funds from their inherited IRAs and pay the taxes within ten years of the death of the IRA owner.

The NRLN believes the elimination of the "stretch IRA" is unfair because it pulls the rug out from under Americans who have saved with the intension of passing their IRAs to their children and/or grandchildren with their ability to spread withdrawals and taxes over their lifetimes.

Click here <https://www.nrln.org/SE.html#/> to email the NRLN's sample letter to your members of Congress to tell them individuals who owned IRAs prior to enacting the SECURE Act on December 21, 2019 should be "grandfathered" to retain the "stretch IRA" status.

Information on Medicare Part D Donut Hole

Most Medicare beneficiaries have heard about the donut hole in Medicare Part D drug plan. The donut hole has closed, but drugs won't be free! On January 23 the NRLN posted a link to an article providing important information about what the closing of the donut hole means. Click her to access the article.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/dianeomdahl/2020/01/21/the-medicare-part-d-drug-plan-donut-hole-is-closed-what-does-that-mean/#2b16e895288d>

Planning Underway for NRLN Leadership Conference

Planning began in January for the annual NRLN Leadership Conference in Washington, DC, February 24-26.

The NRLN Board will meet at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, February 24. The Monday afternoon session, beginning at 1:00 p.m., will include one or more guest speakers and presentations on NRLN issues and legislative priorities. Attendees will spend the entire day of Tuesday and part of Wednesday meeting with their Representatives, Senators and members of their staffs.

Issues to be lobbied on Capitol Hill are:

Medicare Privatization: Oppose the use of taxpayer subsidies to insurance companies for Medicare Advantage plans to move Medicare toward privatization. Advocate grandfathering benefits for Medicare Advantage plan participants if Medicare is privatized.

Reduce Price of Prescription Drugs: Support the NRLN's position on the need for legislation to allow Medicare to do competitive bidding for lower prescription drug prices; end pay-for-delay and other brand name drug makers' tactics that obstruct generics and allow importation of safe and less expensive drugs from Canada.

De-risking: This corporate action takes place through a lump sum offer and purchase of annuities to replace a pension plan. NRLN believes there should be legislation that any surplus funds from a terminated pension plan following de-risking should go to sustain retirees' health care and life insurance benefits.

- **Mergers, Acquisitions and Spin-off:** Protecting retirees' benefits when corporations engage in these actions.

NRLN Villages Chapter Announces Speakers Bureau Presentations

The NRLN Villages Chapter updated its webpage to show its Speakers Bureau Library of Presentations. The presentations are available to be presented to clubs in The Villages (Florida). Click here to access the Chapters webpage. <https://www.nrln.org/CHAPTERS/VILLAGES/villchapter.html> Clubs interested in scheduling a presentation should click on the link at the top of the Library's list to send an email to request a presentation.

Links to Key News Articles Posted in January

During January, 88 links to news articles related to retirement issues were researched and posted daily IN THE NEWS on the NRLN website home page. Click here <https://www.nrln.org/> to read the articles listed below and other articles. Here are examples of the headlines:

Opinion: Somebody Stopped Paying Their Social Security Taxes Today – Jan 1

Here Are the 3 Biggest Mistakes Retirees Make, and How to Avoid Them – Jan 4

2020 Social Security Changes: Everything You Need to Know – Jan 4

Many older Americans skeptical of online reviews of doctors – Jan 6

The Secure Act's New Rules Are Causing a Lot of Confusion. We Answered Your Most Frequent Questions. – Jan 8

Here's how much it may cost to retire in each state in America – Jan 9

Opinion: Lies, Damn Lies, And Drug Price Increases – Jan 9

How to File Your State and Federal Taxes for Free in 2020 – Jan 10

3 Medicare Mistakes to Avoid in 2020 – Jan 10

Trump Administration Working On Plan To Tighten Eligibility Requirements For Disability Benefits With Focus On Age – Jan 13

The Price of 500 Prescription Drugs Have Gone Up This Year: What to Know – Jan 13

Everyone should be worried about Social Security and 401(k) plans — including the presidential candidates – Jan 13

Opinion: Does Medicare Pay For Long-Term Care? Don't Make A Big Mistake! – Jan 14

Opinion: Five big changes coming to health care in 2020 – Jan 16

What The 2020s Have In Store For Aging Boomers – Jan 16

Social Security Scammers Are Trying a New Trick – Jan 18

Conservative groups aim to sink bipartisan fix to 'surprise' medical bills – Jan 19

Opinion: The Medicare Part D Drug Plan Donut Hole Is Closed, What Does That Mean? – Jan 21

Trump Furiously Lashes Out At HHS Secretary About Not Doing Enough On Drug Prices, Health Care Issues – Jan 21

Trump Suggests He May Be Open to Entitlement Cuts in Future – Jan 22

Opinion: 2020 Election: Social Security Needs To Be Addressed – Jan 24

Trump Vows To Protect Social Security A Day After Hinting He Would Be Open To Cutting Entitlement Programs – Jan 24

Three Healthcare Trends To Watch In 2020 – Jan 27

How to keep your retirement accounts safe – Jan 28

Conservative groups call on Trump administration to scrap looming drug price move – Jan 30

Opinion: Social Security Is Safe From Trump (And Whoever Succeeds Him) – Jan 31

Seven Simple Ways To Boost Your Heart Health – Jan 31

Preeminent Hospitals Penalized Over Rates Of Patients' Injuries – Jan 31