



601 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

Suite 900, South Building

Washington, D.C. 20004-2601

Tel: 202-220-3172 Toll-Free: 1-866-360-7197

Email: contact@nrln.org Website: www.nrln.org

www.facebook.com/nrln1 www.twitter.com/nrln3

Board of Directors

Bill Kadereit, President / **Janet Seefried**, VP – Secretary /
Treasurer / **Ed Beltram**, VP – Communications / **Vern Larson**, VP –
Membership Development / **Bob Martina**, VP – Grassroots
Network / **Dana Oliver**, VP - Regulatory / **Joe Sciulli**, VP – Social
Media / **Judy Stenberg**, VP – Legislative Affairs / **Jane Banfield** /
Martha Deahl / **Cynthia Hadsell** / **Jay Kuhnne**

Washington & Support Staff

Alyson Parker, Executive Director

Michael Calabrese, Legislative Adviser

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

Aetna / Agere / Agilent / Albertson / American Airlines /
Ameritech/SBC / AMF / American Mutual / Amica Mutual /
Archdiocese of Boston / ARXE, Inc. / AT&T / Avaya / Avin Meritor /
Avon / Ball Aerospace / Baltimore Public Schools / Bell Atlantic /
Bell Helicopter / Bendix / BOC Group / Boeing / California State
Employees / Caterpillar / C & P Telephone / CenturyLink /
Chrysler / City of San Diego / College of New Rochelle / CO DOT /
CO PERA / Commonwealth Edison / Commscope / Connectivity
Solutions / Consolidated Edison / Continental Airlines /
Continental General Tire / CORBE, Inc. / Cox Media / CSX
Transportation / CWA / Datatronics / Del Monte / Delphi / Delta
Air Lines / Dept. of Justice / Detroit Edison / Detroit Diesel / DHS-
FEMA / Diamond State / Digital Equipment / DTE Energy / DuPont
/ Eastman Chemical Co. / Embarq / Enco Alloys / Entergy
Operations, Inc. / Exelon / FedEx / Fidelity / Fisher Scientific Co. /
Ford / General Electric / General Motors/ General Telephone /
Gulf Oil / Hartford / Hoechst Celanese / Holophane / Honeywell
Vorr / Hughes Aircraft / HWB / IBEW / IBM / Illinois Bell / Illinois
Teachers Assn. / Indiana Bell / J. I. Case Corp. / John Deere / JNJ /
Johns Manville / Johnson & Johnson / Kaman Corp. / Kansas City
Schools / Kodak / Lockheed Martin / Lucent / Marlboro /
McDonnell Douglas / MCI / MetLife / Mich Con / MI Public
Schools / Mobil Oil / Monsanto/Solutia / MST&T Co. / NARFE /
NASD / NEA / Net Co. / Nevada Bell / Niagara Mohawk Power /
NJEA / NJ Public Employee / Nokia / North Memorial Medical
Center / NSTAR / Northwest Airlines / Northwestern Bell / NYNEX
/ NY Teachers / Ohio Bell / OK Teachers / Oregon PERS / OSRAM
Sylvania / PacBell / PBGC / PECO Energy / Pension Actuary / Pfizer
/ Phila Electric Co. / Polaroid / Port Authority of NY & NJ /
Portland GE-Enron / Prudential / PSERS of PA / Public Service of
Colorado / Raytheon / Rock-Tenn Co. / Rocky Mount Mills / Rohm
& Haas Co. / Rouse Co./ Salis / Sears / SEIU/CSEA / Sempra Energy
/ Southern New England Tel / Southwestern Bell / Spherion Corp.
/ Springs Mills / Sprint / State of MI / Supermedia LLC / Teamsters
/ Telesector Resources Group / Telcordia / Tennessee Valley
Authority / Texas Instruments / TIAA-CREF / Transamerica / UCLA
/ Ullico / Union Pacific / UnitedHealthCare / United Airlines /
University of California / UPS / U.S. Air Force / U.S. Airways / U.S.
Bureau of Reclamation / U.S. Marine Corp. / U.S. Air Force / U.S.
Army / U.S. Navy / USAF Trucking / US West-Qwest / USPS /
Verizon / Visteon / WA PERS / Wells Fargo / Western Union /
Weyerhaeuser/ Xerox/

June 3, 2020

The Honorable Greg Walden, Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2185 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-3702

Dear Representative Walden:

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 urge the Committee on Energy and Commerce's Subcommittee on Health to support **H.R. 3107, Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act of 2019** and **H.R. 3911, Increasing Access to Quality Cardiac Rehabilitation Care Act of 2019**. The Subcommittee on Health has had H.R. 3109 since June 6, 2019 and H.R. 3911 since July 24, 2019.

Each of the private insurance companies providing Medicare Advantage (MA) plans has a unique way of handling its requirement for prior authorization. This often requires faxing of a patient's medical information or phone calls by clinicians, which takes precious time away from patient care and potentially lead to a delay of needed medical intervention.

The NRLN agrees with the intent of **H.R. 3107** that when MA plan participants need critical medical care, doctors and support staff should be spending their time working with patients instead of having to haggle with insurance companies over whether they can do their jobs.

Passage of **H.R. 3107** would improve the delivery of medical care for seniors in MA plans by standardizing prior authorization while also providing much needed oversight and transparency of health insurance companies.

The significance of **H.R. 3107** is shown by the 108 Democrats and 106 Republicans who are co-sponsors of the bill.

H.R. 3911 would amend the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 to expand and expedite patient access to cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation services by authorizing physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and clinical nurse specialists to order patients to cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation under Medicare, beginning January 1, 2021 rather than 2024.

Currently, only physicians are authorized to order and supervise cardiac or pulmonary rehabilitation for Medicare patients. This restriction can create unnecessary obstacles, delays, and paperwork before patients can receive the rehabilitation services that are needed on a timely basis and make it challenging for programs to operate in rural and underserved areas where physicians are scarce.

If you would like to know more about why the NRLN supports passage of **H.R. 3107** and **H.R. 3911**, please ask a member of your staff to contact me or Alyson Parker, the NRLN's Executive Director in Washington, DC at 813-545-6792 or executivedirector@nrln.org.

I would appreciate learning whether you will support the passage of **H.R. 3107** and **H.R. 3911**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Kadereit". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bill Kadereit, President,

National Retiree Legislative Network

Phone: 972-722-5928 Email: president@nrln.org