



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 Kuhnle**

Washington & Support Staff

Alyson Parker, Executive Director

Michael Calabrese, Legislative Adviser

The NRLN advocates the rights of more than 2 million American retirees and future 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 / Weverhaeuser / Xerox /

September 15, 2020

The Honorable Richard Neal, Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
2309 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-2101

Dear Chairman Neal:

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 Ways and Means on **H.R. 6971, Medical Nutrition Therapy Act of 2020.**

Currently, original Medicare Part B (medical insurance) provides Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT) for beneficiaries with only diabetes or kidney disease. MNT services must also be provided by a registered dietitian or nutrition professional pursuant to a physician referral.

Passage of **H.R. 6971** would provide coverage to individuals with other diseases and conditions, including obesity, eating disorders, cancer, and HIV/AIDS. Such services may also be referred by a physician assistant, nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, or (for eating disorders) a clinical psychologist.

Medicare Advantage (MA) plans are required to cover MNT without applying deductibles, copayments, or coinsurance when an MA enrollee see an in-network provider and meet Medicare's eligibility requirements for MNT services.

This is a prime example of how Congress, in 2020, is providing \$271 billion in federal rebate payments to private insurance companies to provide benefits, some of this money will fund MA benefits only such as nutrition services, to 26 million seniors in MA plans when the same benefits are not available to the 44 million original Medicare beneficiaries. This is unfair and discriminatory to the seniors in original Medicare.

If you would like to know more about why the NRLN supports **H.R. 6971** and learn why the NRLN's whitepaper opposes legislated subsidies and restrictions placed on original Medicare Fee-for-Service (FFS) just to create the illusion that private insurance plans are more effective, please ask a member of your staff to contact me or Alyson Parker, NRLN Executive Director in Washington, DC, at executivedirector@nrln.org or 813-545-6792.

Sincerely,

Bill Kadereit, President

National Retiree Legislative Network

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