



NRLN Review



NRLN Review, Summary for October 2021

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

Announcement of NRLN Kodak Retirees Chapter

NRLN President Bill Kadereit announced to Kodak retirees on October 12 the formation of the NRLN Kodak Retirees Chapter to replace EKRA which has announced it will dissolve the organization on November 1, 2021. The Chapter's webpage has been created at www.nrln.org (click on the Chapters tab and select NRLN Kodak Retirees Chapter) to provide relevant Chapter news, company news, contact information for Kodak retirement benefits and the Chapter will have email capability to communicate with its members. The Chapter will operate under the same model and rules governing 12 other Chapters.

Invitation Issued to Visit NRLN's New Look Website

On October 26, NRLN President Bill Kadereit send an email to all NRLN members inviting them to visit the new look of the NRLN website at www.nrln.org.

"I think you will find the new layout attractive with more graphics and open space. While we are using a state-of-the-art website template, we have mainly kept the navigation very similar to what our website visitors have been accustomed to using. There are the red icon links and tabs with drop-down windows that reveal additional links."

The objective for creating the new look of our website is to make it easier for visitors to get information on the NRLN's work and retirement issues in Washington, D.C. Any comments or questions about the website should be emailed to contact@nrln.org.

Fall NRLN FOCUS Newsletter Available

Availability of the fall NRLN FOCUS Newsletter was announced in an October 27 email to retirees. Click here to read the newsletter.

<https://nrln.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/NRLN-FOCUS-2021-Fall-Final-Color-for-Website.pdf>

If you have a problem with link above, go to www.nrln.org and click on the graphic link to the FOCUS newsletter posted in the right column of the new NRLN website home page. When the newsletter archives webpage appears click on **Volume XVIII Issue 3 Fall 2021**.

The 8-page newsletter includes:

- NRLN President Bill Kadereit's column on *Fighting Pharma's Power to Lower Drug*
- Articles by Monte Baggs, President, TelCo Retirees Association, and Joe Sciulli, President, Lucent/Nokia Retirees Chapter on *Telco Retirees Association and Lucent/Nokia Retirees Chapter Have Long History with NRLN*
- Profiles: *NRLN Board and Executive Director Have Wide Range of Experience*
- NRLN Executive Director Alyson Parker's column on *Delay, Delay, Delay* by Congress on bills the NRLN supports.

NRLN Legislative Committees' Work

The NRLN's Legislative Advisory Committee (LAC) composed of Judy Stenberg, Chairwoman, Deb Morrisett, Joe Mazzei, Al Duscher and Bob Martina submitted the following bills for the Legislative Action Planning Committee (LAPC) to consider for action during its October 4 conference call. The LAPC includes Bill Kadereit, Chairman, Judy Stenberg, Alyson Parker, Bob Martina and Ed Beltram. The LAPC's actions included:

H.R.1551/S.584, Nutrition CARE Act of 2021, would expand access to medical care for Medicare beneficiaries with eating disorders. It would include coverage of outpatient medical nutrition therapy through Medicare Part B, which will provide patients with a more comprehensive, specialized approach to combating eating disorders than what is currently offered under Medicare.

-- Letters were emailed on October 4, 2021, to Chairwoman Anna Eshoo (CA-18) and Ranking Member Brett Guthrie (KY-02) requesting a vote in the House Subcommittee on Health on **H.R. 1511**.

-- Letters were emailed on October 4, 2021, to Chairman Ron Wyden (OR) and Ranking Member Michael Crapo (ID) requesting a vote in the Senate Committee on Finance on **S.584**.

S.2203, Expanding Access to Diabetes Self-Management Training Act of 2021, would expand Medicare coverage for diabetes self-management training (DSMT) sessions, where diabetes educators help train Medicare patients on how to manage their glucose, maintain a healthy weight, eat healthy foods, manage their insulin levels and improve general care for their diabetes.

-- Letters were emailed on October 4, 2021, to Chairman Ron Wyden (OR) and Ranking Member Michael Crapo (ID) requesting a vote in the Senate Committee on Finance on **S.2203**.

The LAPC accepted the LAC's recommendation to Table and Monitor **H.R.2654**, **S.1770** and **H.R.2954**.

H.R.2654, Chiropractic Medicare Coverage Modernization Act of 2021, would force taxpayer-funded Medicare coverage of chiropractors' services for all Medicare-covered benefits allowable under a chiropractor's state license.

S. 1770, Retirement Security and Savings Act of 2021 was introduced two weeks after Chairman Richard Neal (MA-01) introduced **H.R.2954, Securing a Strong Retirement Act of 2021**. An NRLN Action Alert was issued on June 9 requesting that NRLN members urge their Senators and Representative to support both of these bills. **S.1770** has the NRLN's proposal to limit retirees' exposure to pension recoupment and the proposal to use surplus pension assets for healthcare and life insurance benefits. **H.R.2954** has the NRLN's proposal to limit retirees' exposure to pension recoupment.

H.R.1551, **S.584** and **S.2203** have been posted on the NRLN's Bills webpage at that feeds the NRLN Report Card. Go to: <https://nrln.org/legislative-action-network/#/bills>

Letters on these bills to the Chairs and Ranking Members have been posted on the NRLN website in Letters to Washington. Go to: <https://nrln.org/letters-to-washington-2/>

Key News Articles Posted in October

During October, 68 links to news articles related to retirement issues were researched and posted daily IN THE NEWS on the NRLN website home page. The headlines below are links to the articles. Or, read the articles at www.nrln.org under IN THE NEWS in the right column. Scroll down the right column and click on the headline to access the article you want to read. Below are examples of the headlines.

[Prospects Diminish For Comprehensive Drug Pricing Reform In The Wake Of Internal Clash Among Democrats – Oct. 01](#)

[The U.S. Can Lower Drug Prices Without Sacrificing Innovation](#) - Oct. 1

[How Big of a Threat Does Inflation Pose to Your Retirement? You might be surprised how much inflation can nibble away at your retirement nest egg over time if you aren't prepared.](#) - Oct. 3

[Medicare Reverses Course On Decision To Universally Cover Breakthrough Medical Devices For 4 Years](#) – Oct. 4

[Opinion: Lawmakers tout improved access to health care via telemedicine](#) - Oct. 6

[What the Social Security Shortage Means \(and How to Prepare\)](#) - Oct. 7

[Companies Decide the Time Is Right to Offload Pensions to Insurers](#) - Oct. 7

[Medicare open enrollment starts soon. Here's why you should pay attention](#) - Oct. 9

[IRS to start taxing certain money transfer app users](#) - Oct. 9

[Democrats weigh changes to drug pricing measure to win over moderates](#) - Oct. 10

[Here's what to know about 2021 required minimum withdrawals from retirement accounts](#) – Oct. 11

[What Medicare Doesn't Cover And How Planning Now Can Help Avoid Surprises Later](#) – Oct. 11

[Pelosi defends IRS bank-reporting proposal, says specifics open to negotiation](#) – Oct 12

[Democrats' reconciliation bill breaks Biden's middle class tax pledge](#) - Oct 14

[Democrats' attempt to lower private drug prices is likely to fail](#) - Oct 15

[Opinion: Seniors are getting a big Social Security raise — but here's why they're falling further behind](#) - Oct 16

[Democrats' Drug Pricing Reforms Aren't What They Seem](#) - Oct 19

[FDA To Allow You To Get A Different Type Of Booster Than Your Initial Shot](#) - Oct 19

[Hearing aids can be expensive and hard to get. FDA rule would open access to millions of Americans.](#) - Oct 20

[Biden admin: Did we say \\$600 reporting requirement? We meant \\$10,000 \(Update\)](#) - Oct 20

[A 30-Year Campaign to Control Drug Prices Faces Yet Another Failure](#) - Oct 21

[Insurers look to make Dems' latest pay-for plan politically toxic](#) - Oct 21

[Biden doubts Medicare benefits expansion could make it into infrastructure package](#) - Oct 22

[Medicare Advantage is cheaper for a reason — beware](#) – Oct 23

[Medicare Mistakes You Need To Avoid](#) - Oct 25

[Manchin shutting down Sanders on Medicare expansion](#) - Oct 25

[What's In, What's Out? Democrats Slash Programs To Near Spending Deal](#) - Oct 25

[Congress has a new plan to fix Social Security. How it would change benefits](#) Oct 26

[This May Be Democrats' Best Chance to Lower Drug Prices](#) - Oct 27

[Democrats' Plans to Expand Medicare Benefits May Pinch Advantage Plans' Funding](#) - Oct 28

[Democrats' Plans to Expand Medicare Benefits May Pinch Advantage Plans' Funding](#) - Oct 29

[If Congress Adds Dental Coverage to Medicare, Should All Seniors Get It?](#) - Oct 29

['Still being negotiated': Progressives' moves threaten to sink Biden's framework bill](#) - Oct 31