



NRLN Review



NRLN Review, Summary for January 2021

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

NRLN 2021 Legislative Agenda Posted

The NRLN Legislative Action Planning Committee and the NRLN Board of Directors has reviewed and updated the NRLN 2021 Legislative Agenda. To access the document go to:

<https://www.nrln.org/documents/NRLN%20Legislative%20Agenda.pdf>

NRLN Requests Re-introduction of Bills

With the start of the new 117th Congress on January 3, 2021, NRLN President Bill Kadereit emailed letters to Representatives and Senators requesting that they re-introduce bills important to retirees. The bills are ones the NRLN supported during the 116th Congress (2019-2020) with Action Alerts or NRLN President's Forum messages to NRLN members.

Letters to Chairman Richard Neal (MA-01) and Letter to Ranking Member Kevin Brady (TX-08), House Committee on Ways and Means: Re-introduce the **Securing a Strong Retirement Act**. The bill includes a section on pension recoupment protections.

Letter to Chairman Frank Pallone (NJ-06), House Committee on Energy and Commerce: Re-introduce the **Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act**. The House passed this bill in the 116th Congress, but it was not passed by the Senate.

Letter to Senator Chuck Grassley (IA), Senate Finance Committee: Re-introduce the **Prescription Drug Pricing Reduction Act**.

Letter to Representative Bradley Schneider (IL-10): Re-introduce the **Protecting Medicare Beneficiaries with Pre-Existing Conditions Act**.

Letters to Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz (FL-23) and Senator Marsha Blackburn (TN): Re-introduce the **Protecting Access to Lifesaving Screenings (PALS) Act**.

Letter to Representative Susan DelBene (WA-01): Re-introduce the **Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act**.

Letter to Senator Dick Durbin (IL): Re-introduce the **Protecting Employees and Retirees in Business Bankruptcies Act** with a number of proposed NRLN amendments.

Three NRLN Board Members Re-elected

The NRLN Board during its 1st Quarter conference call on January 25 re-elected three Board Members for a two-year term. They are: **Jane Banfield**, Vice President, TelCo Retirees Association; **Martha Deahl**, President, NRLN Arizona Chapter and NRLN Vice President, Desert Southwest Region, and **Dana Oliver**, General Council, National Chrysler Retirement Organization, and NRLN Vice President, Regulatory Affairs.

NRLN Legislative Committees

Since the 117th Congress began on January 3 and Representatives and Senators have just begun to introduce bills the NRLN's Legislative Affairs Committee (LAC) did not submit bills in January to be considered for action by the Legislative Action Planning Committee (LAPC).

Key News Articles Posted in January

During January, 80 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 text and not links to the articles. To read the articles go to www.nrln.org and under IN THE NEWS in the right column scroll down and click on the headline to access the article you want to read. Below are examples of the headlines.

Medicare For All May Die In 2021 – Jan. 1

Court Injunction Temporarily Upends Most Favored Nation Policy To Lower Prices Of Medicare Part B Drugs – Jan. 2

Congress addressed surprise medical bills, but the issue is not resolved – Jan. 4

It's the New Year, and pharma companies are already hiking prices for popular drugs – Jan. 4

Hospital Prices Just Got a Lot More Transparent. What Does This Mean for You? – Jan. 5

A Start-Up That Wants to Undersell the Drug Industry Raises Another \$500 Million – Jan. 11

AHIP Blasts Pharmaceutical Industry as Drug Prices Increase – Jan. 13

Will the New Congress Do Anything to Lower Drug Prices? – Jan. 15

Billionaire Mark Cuban Wants To Lower Drug Prices With Generics Startup – Jan. 15

Older Americans are sinking into debt—reversing the trend won't be easy – Jan. 20

Multiemployer pension plans could soon see relief – Jan. 21

Monthly Social Security Checks Would Be \$380 Higher If COLAs Reflected Reality for Seniors – Jan. 22

Biden has promised to reform Social Security — some changes could come as soon as this year – Jan. 23

Opinion: How the U.S. can avoid a future where millions of retired Americans can't meet their basic needs – Jan. 25

PBM group asks court to put Trump's last-minute drug rebate rule on hold – Jan. 26

Shoring Up Social Security. Social Security is headed for a shortfall. But sooner or later, lawmakers will act to preserve your benefits.- Jan 27

Perspectives: Biden, Congress Must Seize Moment To Reduce Drug Prices – Jan. 27

RAND: U.S. brand-name drug prices nearly 3 times higher than other countries – Jan. 28

States Move Ahead With Canada Drug Importation While Awaiting Signal From Biden – Jan. 29

Opinion: How the U.S. can avoid a future where millions of retired Americans can't meet their basic needs – Jan. 30

GOP Senators Offer \$600 Billion Stimulus Compromise to Biden – Jan. 31, 2021