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April 3, 2023

The Honorable Jason Smith, Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
1011 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Smith:

On behalf of the more than 2 million members of the National Retiree Legislative Network (NRLN), I am requesting that you call for votes in the Committee on Ways and Means on 3 bills: **H.R.704, Promoting Access to Diabetic Shoes Act, H.R.875, Protecting Social Security and Medicare Act, and H.R.977, Patient Access to Higher Quality Health Care Act of 2023.**

Passage of **H.R.704** would improve diabetic patients' access to therapeutic shoes by allowing nurse practitioners (NPs) and physician associates/physician assistants (PAs) - who often act as sole primary care providers for many patients with diabetes – to prescribe this important health care device.

Diabetes is a serious disease that can lead to health complications including the amputation of toes, feet, or legs. In addition to managing the disease through physical activity, diet, and medication, diabetic patients often benefit from the use of therapeutic shoes, which are intended to prevent complications like foot ulcers, calluses, or amputations.

Passage of **H.R.875** would, in the event of a debt limit crisis, ensure that Social Security and Medicare payments would be made in full and timely by authorizing the Treasury Department to issue debt obligations even though the debt limit had been reached.

Passage of **H.R.977** would repeal the Affordable Care Act's ban on new physician owned hospitals. Since 2010, a provision in Affordable Care Act has prohibited physicians from opening new hospitals or expanding hospitals they already own. Lawmakers inserted this disastrous provision because of a concerted campaign from hospital lobbyists to ban highly skilled physicians from offering an affordable alternative to expensive hospital care.

If you would like to learn more about why the NRLN supports these 3 bills please contact me or Alyson Parker, NRLN Executive Director in Washington, DC, at executivedirector@nrln.org or call 813-545-6792.

Sincerely,

Bill Kadereit, President
National Retiree Legislative Network
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