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

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April 3, 2023

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Chair  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2188 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-4705

Dear Chairwoman McMorris Rodgers:

On behalf of the more than 2 million members of the National Retiree Legislative Network (NRLN) I am requesting that you call for a vote in the Committee on Energy and Commerce on **H.R.977, Patient Access to Higher Quality Health Care Act of 2023.**

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.

As a result of the big hospitals' anti-patient lobbying efforts, the ban imposed an immediate halt on the construction of high-quality hospitals. Several analysis by Physician Hospitals of America found that 75 new hospitals and 45 hospital expansion projects were terminated by this policy. Furthermore, this policy prevented 30,000 new healthcare jobs from opening across the country.

If you would like to learn more about why NRLN supports H.R.977, please contact me or Alyson Parker, NRLN Executive Director in Washington, DC, at [executivedirector@nrln.org](mailto:executivedirector@nrln.org) or call 813-545-6792.

Sincerely,

**Bill Kadereit**, President  
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