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

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May 2, 2023

The Honorable Mike Crapo, Ranking Member
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
239 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-1205

Dear Senator Crapo:

On behalf of the more than 2 million members of the National Retiree Legislative Network (NRLN) I am requesting that you support calling for votes in the Committee on Finance on two bills: **S.626**, Comprehensive Care For Alzheimer's Act, and **S838**, Improving Access to Mental Health Act of 2023.

S.626 would help the 95% of individuals with dementia that have one or more other chronic conditions, such as hypertension, heart disease and diabetes. Passage of the **S.626** would improve the lives of those living with Alzheimer's disease by:

- providing comprehensive care management services; establishing high standards of care by evaluating the quality of care provided to patients;
- eliminating cost-sharing for patients and pay providers a monthly amount based on the complexity and quality of the patient's care;
- ensuring that caregivers are supported and able to participate in the coordination and management of care, and
- requiring outreach to underrepresented populations, as well as culturally appropriate care.

S.838 would increase seniors' access to behavioral health services and ensure clinical social workers can provide their full range of services to Medicare beneficiaries. Passage of **S.838** would increase the Medicare payment reimbursement rate for clinical social workers from 75% to 85% of the physician fee schedule. This would align Medicare payments for clinical social workers with that of other non-physician providers such as nurse practitioners and physician assistants.

If you would like to learn more about why NRLN supports these two 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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Phone: 972-722-5928