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

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July 10, 2023

The Honorable Vern Buchanan, Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Health
U.S. House of Representatives
2110 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0916

Dear Chairman Buchanan:

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 Subcommittee on Health on three bills:

H.R.972, Outpatient Surgery Quality and Access Act of 2023; H.R.1199, Facilitating Innovative Nuclear Diagnostics Act of 2023, H.R. 1617, Prevent Interruptions in Physical Therapy Act of 2023

H.R.972 would help Medicare beneficiaries access affordable outpatient surgical care. It closes the reimbursement gap, eliminates copay penalties for Medicare beneficiaries, and reduces other barriers standing between patients and affordable, quality care. Ambulatory Surgery Centers offer low-cost outpatient services, but restrictions and reimbursement rules currently limit seniors' access to these centers and add to healthcare cost.

Diagnostic and therapeutic radiopharmaceutical drugs required in nuclear medicine procedures are used to diagnose and treat a wide variety of life-threatening conditions. However, Medicare's reimbursement methodology is flawed and creates a disincentive for hospitals to utilize innovative diagnostic radiopharmaceutical drugs. **H.R.1199**, offers a bipartisan, legislative fix which will ensure more patients have access to these innovations.

Occasionally, a physical therapist must be away from their outpatient clinic for short periods of time. When this happens, they need to be able to bring in a licensed and qualified physical therapist to ensure their patients' care can continue without interruption. **H.R.1617** ensures that all seniors can retain continued access to highly skilled care by a qualified physical therapist.

If you would like to learn more about why NRLN supports these three bills, please contact me or Alyson Parker, NRLN Executive Director in Washington, DC, at parkerstrategies@gmail.com or call 813-545-6792.

Sincerely,

Bill Kadereit, President

National Retiree Legislative Network

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