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September 12, 2023

The Honorable Ron Wyden, Chairman
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-3703

Dear Chairman Wyden:

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 Finance on the following five bills:

S.1832, Expanding Access to Diabetes Self-Management Training Act of 2023.

Nearly 26 million Americans are afflicted with diabetes and another 79 million have pre-diabetes, a condition that is known to progress to diabetes without early intervention, according to the CDC. **S.1832** would expand Medicare coverage for diabetes self-management training sessions, where diabetes educators train Medicare patients on how to manage their glucose, maintain a healthy weight, eat healthy foods, manage their insulin levels, and improve general care for their diabetes.

S.1894, Colorectal Cancer Payment Fairness Act.

Colorectal cancer kills more than 50,000 Americans annually. It is second only to lung cancer in U.S. cancer deaths. **S.1894** would require Medicare to provide coverage for removal of cancerous growths, or polyps, during colorectal cancer screenings. Medicare provides coverage of the screenings, but not the removal of the polyps. Patients could face surprise charges if polyps were removed during the procedure.

S.2323, Access to Genetic Counselor Services Act of 2023.

Medical professionals recognize the need for genetic testing and genetic counseling to help their patients. Medicare does not recognize genetic counselors as providers and does not reimburse for genetic counselor services. **S.2323** would make genetic counselors recognized by Medicare and reimburse them for services delivered to Medicare beneficiaries at 85% of physician payment levels.

S.2379, Concentrating on High-Value Alzheimer's Needs to Get to the End (CHANGE) Act of 2023.

Alzheimer's affects millions of Americans. **S.2379** would require the CMS to identify cognitive impairment detection tools to help clinicians detect, refer, and diagnose Alzheimer's and related dementias in their earliest stages in order to access medications that slow the progression of the disease and preserve quality of life for a longer period of time.

S.2477, Equitable Community Access to Pharmacist, would ensure seniors can access certain clinical services from their pharmacist. The bill would allow Medicare to reimburse for certain pharmacist-administered tests, treatments, and vaccinations for influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), COVID-19, strep throat and other services that pharmacists are already licensed to perform under state laws.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Kadereit". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bill Kadereit, President

National Retiree Legislative Network

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