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

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July 2, 2024

The Honorable Michelle Steel
 U.S. House of Representatives
 1127 Longworth House Office Building
 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Steel:

On behalf of the more than 2 million members of the National Retiree Legislative Network (NRLN), I am writing to thank you for introducing **H.R.7149, Equal Access to Specialty Care Everywhere (EASE) Act of 2024.**

The NRLN believes as you do that it would be beneficial to seniors for the Center for Medicare and Medicaid to use existing innovation funds to test a virtual specialty network in partnership with primary care providers in underserved and rural communities including Federally Qualified Health Centers, Rural Health Clinics, and Community Health Clinics.

With the persistent specialist shortages, your bill would enable greater patient access to specialty care services for cardiology, neurology, and endocrinology to address chronic health conditions. It also would reduce wait times, prevent costly emergency room visits, and improve care coordination for Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries.

I know that **H.R.7149** has been in the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce Subcommittees on Health for more than four months. The NRLN hopes that the Committees will approve your bill and it will be passed by the House during this session of Congress.

Sincerely,

Bill Kadereit, President
 National Retiree Legislative Network
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 Phone: 972-722-5928