



601 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
 Suite 900, South Building
 Washington, D.C. 20004-2601
 Tel: 202-220-3172 Toll-Free: 1-866-360-7197
 Email: contact@nrln.org Website: www.nrln.org Facebook:
www.facebook.com/nrln1 Twitter: www.twitter.com/nrln3

Board of Directors

Bill Kadereit, President / **Janet Seefried**, VP – Secretary /
 Treasurer / **Ed Beltram**, VP – Communications / **Vern Larson** –
 VP Chapters Representative / **Martha Deahl**, VP – Grassroots /
Dana Oliver, VP - Regulatory / **Joe Sciulli**, VP – Social Media /
Judy Stenberg, VP – Legislative Affairs / **Hector Saenz**, VP –
 Membership Development / **Jane Banfield** / **Cynthia Hadsell** /
Jay Kuhnle / **Mary Foley** /

Washington Staff

Alyson Parker, Executive Director
Michael Calabrese, Legislative Adviser

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

Aetna / Agere / Agilent / Albertson / American Airlines / AT&T-
 Ameritech-SBC / AMF / American Mutual / Amica Mutual /
 Archdiocese of Boston / ARXE, Inc. / AT&T / Avaya / Avin
 Meritor / Avon / Ball Aerospace / Baltimore Public Schools / Bell
 Atlantic / Bell Helicopter / BellSouth / Bendix / BOC Group /
 Boeing / California State Employees / Caterpillar / C & P
 Telephone / CenturyLink / Chrysler / City of San Diego / College
 of New Rochelle / CO DOT / CO PERA / Commonwealth Edison /
 Commscope / Connectivity Solutions / Consolidated Edison /
 Continental Airlines / Continental General Tire / Cooper Tires/
 CORBE, Inc. / CorTeve / Cox Media / CSX Transportation / CWA /
 Datatronics / Del Monte / Delphi / Delta Air Lines / Dept. of
 Justice / Detroit Edison / Detroit Diesel / DHS-FEMA / Diamond
 State / Digital Equipment / DTE Energy / DuPont / Eastman
 Chemical Co. / Embarq / Enco Alloys / Entergy Operations, Inc. /
 Exelon / FedEx / Fidelity / Fisher Scientific Co. / Ford / General
 Electric / General Motors / General Telephone / Gulf Oil /
 Hartford / Hoechst Celanese / Holophane / Honeywell Vorr /
 Hughes Aircraft / HWB / IBEW / IBM / Illinois Bell / Illinois
 Teachers Assn. / Indiana Bell / J. I. Case Corp. / John Deere / JNJ
 / Johns Manville / Johnson & Johnson / Kaman Corp. / Kansas
 City Schools / Kodak / Lockheed Martin / Lucent / Marlboro /
 McDonnell Douglas / MCI / MetLife / Mich Con / MI Public
 Schools / Mobil Oil / Monsanto/Solutia / MST&T Co. / NARFE /
 NASD / NEA / Net Co. / Nevada Bell / Niagara Mohawk Power /
 NJEA / NJ Public Employee / Nokia / North Memorial Medical
 Center / NSTAR / Northwest Airlines / Northwestern Bell /
 NYNEX / NY Teachers / Ohio Bell / OK Teachers / Oregon PERS /
 OSRAM Sylvania / PacBell / PBGC / PECO Energy / Pension
 Actuary / Pfizer / Phila Electric Co. / Polaroid / Port Authority of
 NY & NJ / Portland GE-Enron / Prudential / PSERS of PA / Public
 Service of Colorado / Raytheon / RECSEA / Rock-Tenn Co. /
 Rocky Mount Mills / Rohm & Haas Co. / Rouse Co. / Salis / Sears
 / SEIU/CSEA / Sempra Energy / Southern New England Tel /
 Southwestern Bell / Spherion Corp. / Springs Mills / Sprint /
 State of MI / Supermedia LLC / Teamsters / Telesector
 Resources Group / Telcordia / Tennessee Valley Authority /
 Texas Instruments / TIAA-CREF / Transamerica / UCLA / Ullico /
 Union Pacific / UnitedHealthCare / United Airlines / United
 Telephone / University of California / UPS / U.S. Air Force / U.S.
 Airways / U.S. Bureau of Reclamation / U.S. Marine Corp. / U.S.
 Air Force / U.S. Army / U.S. Navy / USAF Trucking / US West-
 Qwest / USPS / Verizon / Visteon / WA PERS / Wells Fargo /
 Western Union / Weyerhaeuser / Xerox/

July 1, 2024

The Honorable Anna Eshoo, Ranking Member
 Subcommittee on Health
 Committee on Energy and Commerce
 U.S. House of Representatives
 272 Cannon House Office Building
 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Eshoo:

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 Subcommittee on Health on the following four bills:

H.R.5138, Improving Access to Medicare Coverage Act of 2024 would update a current loophole in Medicare policy to help protect seniors from high medical costs for the skilled nursing care they require after hospitalization. Passage of the bill would allow for the time patients spend in the hospital under “observation status” to count toward the requisite three-day hospital stay for coverage of skilled nursing care.

Under the current Medicare policy, a beneficiary must have an “inpatient” hospital stay of at least three days in order for Medicare to cover post-hospitalization skilled nursing care. Patients that receive hospital care under “observation status” do not qualify for this benefit, even if their hospital stay lasts longer than three days.

H.R.6094, Providing Realistic Opportunity to Equal and Comparable Treatment (PROTECT) for Rare Act would provide access to new and innovative treatments that are essential to the health and well-being for seniors on Medicare and Medicaid who live with rare diseases. Too often, these people have very few options and new treatments or off-label drugs are often not covered under Medicare or Medicaid.

Passing this bill will allow Medicare and Medicaid to cover the cost of medication or treatment that doctors think would benefit their patients, providing flexibility to Americans living with rare diseases.

H.R.7142, Alternatives to Prevent Addiction in the Nation (PAIN) Act would provide greater access to non-opioid treatments for pain management for seniors by making new opioid alternatives and others currently on the market available for Medicare Part D beneficiaries.

Too often, Medicare Part D makes it unaffordable for seniors to get non-opioid pain relievers and forces them to settle for a prescription with a higher risk of addiction and overdose. This bill would remove these barriers so that seniors are able to choose the treatment that is best for them.

H.R.8018, Alleviating Barriers for Caregivers (ABC) Act would require the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Social Security Administration (SSA), and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to review their eligibility, processes, procedures, forms, and communications to reduce the administrative burden on family caregivers. The legislation would then annually require CMS, SSA and CHIP to report to Congress about any issues they are facing and any next steps they are taking to support family caregivers.

More than 48 million family caregivers serve as a primary source of support for seniors and people with disabilities of all ages. One in four family caregivers have said they want help with forms, paperwork and eligibility for services.

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,



Bill Kadereit, President

National Retiree Legislative Network

Email: bkad@sbcglobal.net

Phone: 972-722-5928