



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

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August 12, 2024

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 three bills:

S.1673, Protecting Access to Ground Ambulance Services would extend a specialized rate increase for Medicare payment of ground ambulance services in rural areas for an additional three years, until January 1, 2028. It will help ambulance service providers hire and retain EMT staff, update their equipment, and continue providing lifesaving medical care across the country, especially in the underserved areas.

S.3481, Increasing Access to Quality Cardiac Rehabilitation Care Act of 2023 would expand and expedite patient access to cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation services by authorizing physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and clinical nurse specialists to order patients to cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation under Medicare. The bill builds upon the innovative Improving Access to Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehabilitation Act, passed as part of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (P.L.115-123), which authorized these providers to supervise cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation beginning in 2024.

Currently, only physicians are authorized to order cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation for Medicare patients. This restriction can create unnecessary obstacles, delays, and paperwork before patients can receive the rehabilitation services that are needed on a timely basis and make it challenging for programs to operate in rural and underserved areas where physicians are scarce.

S.3766, Connecting Caregivers to Medicare Act of 2024 aims to improve the coordination of care between caregivers and Medicare beneficiaries. It will publicize resources Medicare has for family caregivers, including the voluntary option allowing Medicare beneficiaries to allow family

caregivers to access their health information through 1-800-MEDICARE. The bill also requires Medicare to train 1-800-MEDICARE operators on how to properly provide family caregivers with all the appropriate information. It further requires that information be provided in non-English languages.

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 style with a yellow highlight behind the name.

Bill Kadereit, President

National Retiree Legislative Network

Email: bkad@sbcglobal.net

Phone: 972-722-5928