

To: NRLN Grassroots Network Members

From: NRLN President Bill Kadereit

Subject: NRLN Invitation to Participate in a September Face-to-Face with Congress

The National Retiree Legislative Network extends an invitation to you to join other NRLN Grassroots Network members in Washington, DC in mid-September for face-to-face meetings with members of Congress and their staffs. Come for one day or all three days during September 15-17.

Our current plans are to advocate for retirees on Capitol Hill on the national health care reform legislation that is expected to be front and center in Congress in mid-September. With your participation, we will lobby Senators and Representatives to include in their bills our NRLN retiree health care agenda of: include a Maintenance-of-Cost Payment (MCP) proposal on retirement benefits; add catastrophic coverage to Medicare; eliminate the "doughnut hole" in the Medicare Part D prescription drug plan, and allow men and women age 50 – 64 the option of buying into Medicare on a cost basis. (Read the NRLN Legislative Agenda at: <http://www.nrln.org/NRLN%202009%20Legislative%20Agenda.pdf> .)

In the event that health care reform bills have already come out of committee by mid-September, your presence will be to advocate for what is in the bills that will help retirees and oppose anything that is harmful to retirees.

In addition, we will arm our Grassroots Network members who come to Washington with information on what we want Congress to do to better protect pension plan assets. We will urge reform of bankruptcy laws to preserve retirees' pensions and benefits. And we will advocate changes in PBGC rules to treat retirees more equitably when pension plans are taken over.

Our tentative schedule is to arrive in Washington, DC by 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 15th and attend an afternoon orientation session that will prepare you to meet with members of Congress. Tips will be provided on how to effectively present our NRLN Legislative agenda.. Packets with NRLN information to leave with members of Congress will be distributed in this session.

Wednesday, September 16th, will be devoted to pre-arranged meetings on Capitol Hill with members of Congress and/or their staff members. Following the meetings, those who wish to depart Washington may do so Wednesday afternoon or evening. Others who can remain a second night will have pre-arranged meetings with other lawmakers on Thursday. Coming for one day only can be arranged for you on either Wednesday or Thursday.

To provide you with more information on how important it is for you to participate in this effort to influence members of Congress on important retirement issues, Marta Bascom, the NRLN's Executive Director in Washington, DC, has created a video clip that is posted on the NRLN website home page at www.nrln.org . Please take the time to view Marta's brief message to help you make your decision to join us.

If you are going to attend, please send the NRLN an email by Friday, June 19, to let us know that you will join us. Send your response to nrlnmessage@msn.com . Include in your response your name, street, city, state and 9-digit zip code; email address, phone number and names of your Senators and Representative. This information will be essential as we work with you to set up meetings with members of Congress and/or their staff members.

Whether there will be the potential for expense sharing on your travel cost is an issue you may want to discuss with the leadership of your retiree association. As we understand the number of individuals who will participate, the NRLN may be able to work with the retiree associations on some level of expense sharing.

To ask questions about what we may not have covered in this email or in the video on the NRLN website, please contact any member of the committee listed below.

Bill Kadereit, President
National Retiree Legislative Network

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