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American retirees from...**

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March 20, 2015

The Honorable Susan Collins, Chair
Senate Special Committee on Aging
United States Senate
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-1904

Dear Senator Collins:

On behalf of the more than 2 million retirees represented by the National Retiree Legislative Network (NRLN), I want to thank you for reintroducing S. 539, the Medicare Access to Rehabilitation Services Act, which would repeal the caps on Medicare outpatient rehabilitation physical therapy services and speech-language pathology services.

Congress has recognized the necessity for flexibility in these services by acting 12 times to prevent the implementation of this cap. As you and Senator Cardin understand, it makes sense to eliminate the cap to protect Medicare beneficiaries from arbitrary limits on outpatient physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech-language pathology services that are often needed to recover from debilitating illnesses or injuries.

It is my understanding that if the therapy cap is not repealed as S. 539 and companion bill HR 775 would do, or at the very least the appeals process to go beyond the cap is extended, then the cap will revert to a hard cap of \$1,940 max, no exception.

The NRLN has issued an "Action Alert" to its members asking them to send letters to their Representative and Senators to urge them to support the passage of the Medicare Access to Rehabilitation Services Act of 2015. If there is anything else the NRLN can do to help gain the passage of H.R. 775, please contact me or Marta Bascom, the NRLN's Executive Director in Washington, DC at 703-863-9611 or executivedirector@nrln.org.

The NRLN's full Legislative Agenda and detailed whitepapers can be found at www.nrln.org. Your consideration on these issues would also be appreciated.

Sincerely,

President, National Retiree Legislative Network
Phone: 972-722-5928 Email: president@nrln.org