



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

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

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December 11, 2015

The Honorable Ron Wyden, Ranking Member
Finance Committee
United States Senate
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-3703

Dear Senator Wyden:

On behalf of the more than 2 million retirees represented by the National Retiree Legislative Network (NRLN), I want to thank you for your leadership on the Senate Finance Committee in introducing S. 2148, the Protecting Medicare Beneficiaries Act of 2015.

The NRLN agrees with you that Medicare beneficiaries and states should be protected from a sharp rise in Part B premiums and deductibles in 2016.

Since there will not be a Social Security Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) in 2016, without passage of your bill 30 percent of Medicare beneficiaries (15 million Americans) will encounter a 52 percent increase in monthly premiums because they are excluded from the rarely-used "hold-harmless" policy.

We support S. 2148 because it will hold 2016 premiums constant for the 30 percent group at the 2015 level (\$104.90) and maintain the deductible for all beneficiaries at \$147 (the 2015 threshold). Without the protection provided by your bill premiums will increase to more than \$150 per month and the deductible would jump to \$223 per month.

If the NRLN can help gain the passage of S. 2148, 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