



To NRLN Individual Contributing Members:

Two-thirds of the NRLN’s budget is based on Individual Membership contributions. We could not exist without your continued support that is greatly appreciated. Therefore, I am again asking you to make your personal contribution. Details are at the end of this letter.

During 2013, the NRLN took the lead in advocating legislation to protect retirees when a pension plan sponsor decides to purchase an insurance company annuity to replace its defined benefit pension plan. This is called “**de-risking.**” It really means that the “risk” is placed on the retirees because we lose the protection of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) and the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC). I testified before the Department of Labor ERISA Advisory Council on the protections retirees need and **most of the NRLN’s proposals were recommended** to the (DOL).

The NRLN began a lobbying effort in 2013 to expand disclosures in the **Annual Funding Notices (AFNs)** that pension plan participants receive by the end of April each year. Incomplete AFNs give retirees a false sense of security on the status of their pensions. We will be pursuing more action to effect change to achieve implementation of our de-risking and AFN proposals in 2014.

Building coalitions in Washington, D.C. for action on retirement issues is very important. The NRLN has advanced from an Alliance member to a **leadership role in the Alliance.**

The NRLN believes its opposition to changing the formula for the Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) to the proposed Chained CPI which would have lowered future COLAs helped Congress decide not to make the change in the recently passed federal budget. The NRLN continues to advocate to Congress that **the protection of Social Security and Medicare** needs to address the long-term funding gaps through modest increases in the payroll tax and temporarily suspending the ceiling on earnings that can be taxed until the trust funds are actuarially funded. Trust assets should be in a “lock box”, preventing access by Congress to cover other government spending.

We are taking on a new advocacy issue in 2014 because many Americans age 65 and older who are Medicare eligible are held hostage to higher costs for their Medicare supplement (Medigap) plan or their Medicare Advantage plan because of a pre-existing medical condition. The Affordable Care Act (or Obamacare) prevents health care insurance companies from denying coverage to Americans under age 65 due to a pre-existing medical condition but ignores those over the age of 65. The NRLN launched its campaign against this discriminatory practice in our appointments on Capitol Hill during our Annual Leadership Conference February 3-5, 2014. Our other lobbying priorities for 2014 include:

- **Protection of Pension Assets** by stopping corporations from using pension assets for non-pension expenses.
- **Corporate Bankruptcy Reform** so retirees' pensions and benefits are obligations companies can't shed.
- **Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp. Reform** to ensure equitable calculations of benefit payments to retirees.
- **Protection of Retirees in Mergers, Acquisitions & Spin-Offs** through legislation that clarifies what a parent foreign owner’s pension plan obligations are and require that Plan fiduciaries should be American citizens.
- **Lobbying to Reduce the Cost of Prescription Drugs through legislation that** (1) Enables importation of safe prescription drugs; (2) Enables Medicare to take competitive bids for prescription drugs; (3) Funds the FDA to reduce generic drug approval backlogs; (4) Prevents drug companies from colluding to control pricing.

How You Can Help: Contacting your members of Congress when an NRLN Action Alert is issued is very important. Ask friends to sign up at www.nrln.org to receive NRLN emails. Also, **please make your annual contribution of \$25, \$50, \$75 or more.** Any amount you can contribute will be appreciated. You may make your check or money order payable to **NRLN, Inc.** and **mail it with the provided Contribution Form in the enclosed envelope (make a copy for a friend or neighbor).** Or, you may make your contribution online with your credit card on the NRLN website at www.nrln.org by clicking on the "Join Us" tab on the home page and selecting “Support the NRLN.”

Bill Kadereit, President, National Retiree Legislative Network

NRLN MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTION

General

The NRLN is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization. Contributions are not tax deductible.

Name: _____ Age: under 55; 55-64; 65 or over

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Zip + 4: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address (if available): _____

I get my retirement benefits from _____ (name of company)

Mail this form with your check or money order (no cash please) for \$25, \$50, \$75 or more (any amount will be appreciated) payable to **NRLN, Inc., P.O. Box 18757, Washington, D.C. 20036-8757**