



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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September 12, 2022

The Honorable Richard Neal, Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
372 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-2101

Dear Chairman Neal:

On behalf of the more than 2 million retirees and future retirees represented by the National Retiree Legislative Network (NRLN), I am requesting that you call for a vote in the Committee on Ways and Means on the following two bills.

H.R.7995, GOLD CARD Act of 2022. Prior authorizations for Medicare Advantage patients too often result in unnecessary administrative delays in care, which are detrimental to patients and frustrating for providers. Since most medical services are ultimately approved, the GOLD CARD Act is a commonsense approach to addressing the unnecessary burdens caused by the widespread use of prior authorization. The bill would exempt providers from requiring prior authorization for a Medicare Advantage plan year if the provider had at least 90% of prior authorization requests approved the preceding year. This allows Medicare Advantage patients to receive quality care in a timely manner by streamlining the prior authorization process for physicians.

H.R.8594, Restore Protections for Dialysis Patients Act. In 1981, Congress amended the Medicare Secondary Payer Act (MSPA) to add language to protect against private health insurers from designing benefit plans to push individuals with End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) onto Medicare prematurely. For decades, health plans have abided by the principles of MSPA, benefitting both beneficiaries and taxpayers. In June 2022, the Supreme Court ruled that health plans *can* effectively push ESRD patients onto Medicare. This prompts a need for the House to pass **H.R.8594** to clarify MSPA and protect ESRD patients from being kicked off of their private health plans and onto Medicare, causing more expense to Medicare.

If you would like to learn more about why the NRLN supports **H.R.7995** and **H.R.8594**, please contact me or Alyson Parker, NRLN Executive Director, on her cell phone at 813-545-6792 or executivedirector@nrln.org.

Sincerely,

Bill Kadereit, President

National Retiree Legislative Network

Email: president@nrln.org Phone: 972-722-5928