



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](mailto:contact@nrln.org) Website: [www.nrln.org](http://www.nrln.org)  
[www.facebook.com/nrln1](https://www.facebook.com/nrln1) [www.twitter.com/nrln3](https://www.twitter.com/nrln3)

**Board of Directors**

**Bill Kadereit**, President / **Janet Seefried**, VP – Secretary /  
Treasurer / **Ed Beltram**, VP – Communications / **Vern Larson**,  
VP – Membership Development / **Bob Martina**, VP –  
Grassroots Network / **Dana Oliver**, VP - Regulatory / **Joe Sciulli**,  
VP – Social Media / **Judy Stenberg**, VP – Legislative Affairs /  
**Jane Banfield** / **Martha Deahl** / **Cynthia Hadsell** / **Jay Kuhnle**

**Washington & Support Staff**

**Alyson Parker**, Executive Director  
**Michael Calabrese**, Legislative Adviser

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

Aetna / Agere / Agilent / Albertson / American Airlines /  
Ameritech/SBC / AMF / American Mutual / Amica Mutual /  
Archdiocese of Boston / ARXE, Inc. / AT&T / Avaya / Avin  
Meritor / Avon / Ball Aerospace / Baltimore Public Schools /  
Bell Atlantic / Bell Helicopter / Bendix / BOC Group / Boeing /  
California State Employees / Caterpillar / C & P Telephone /  
CenturyLink / Chrysler / City of San Diego / College of New  
Rochelle / CO DOT / CO PERA / Commonwealth Edison /  
Commscope / Connectivity Solutions / Consolidated Edison /  
Continental Airlines / Continental General Tire / CORBE, Inc. /  
Cox Media / CSX Transportation / CWA / Datatronics / Del  
Monte / Delphi / Delta Air Lines / Dept. of Justice / Detroit  
Edison / Detroit Diesel / DHS-FEMA / Diamond State / Digital  
Equipment / DTE Energy / DuPont / Eastman Chemical Co. /  
Embarq / Enco Alloys / Entergy Operations, Inc. / Exelon /  
FedEx / Fidelity / Fisher Scientific Co. / Ford / General Electric /  
General Motors / General Telephone / Gulf Oil / Hartford /  
Hoechst Celanese / Holophane / Honeywell Vorr / Hughes  
Aircraft / HWB / IBEW / IBM / Illinois Bell / Illinois Teachers  
Assn. / Indiana Bell / J. I. Case Corp. / John Deere / JNJ / Johns  
Manville / Johnson & Johnson / Kaman Corp. / Kansas City  
Schools / Kodak / Lockheed Martin / Lucent / Marlboro /  
McDonnell Douglas / MCI / MetLife / Mich Con / MI Public  
Schools / Mobil Oil / Monsanto/Solutia / MST&T Co. / NARFE /  
NASD / NEA / Net Co. / Nevada Bell / Niagara Mohawk Power /  
NJEA / NJ Public Employee / Nokia / North Memorial Medical  
Center / NSTAR / Northwest Airlines / Northwestern Bell /  
NYNEX / NY Teachers / Ohio Bell / OK Teachers / Oregon PERS  
/ OSRAM Sylvania / PacBell / PBGC / PECO Energy / Pension  
Actuary / Pfizer / Phila Electric Co. / Polaroid / Port Authority of  
NY & NJ / Portland GE-Enron / Prudential / PSERS of PA / Public  
Service of Colorado / Raytheon / Rock-Tenn Co. / Rocky Mount  
Mills / Rohm & Haas Co. / Rouse Co. / Salis / Sears / SEIU/CSEA  
/ Sempra Energy / Southern New England Tel / Southwestern  
Bell / Spherion Corp. / Springs Mills / Sprint / State of MI /  
Supermedia LLC / Teamsters / Telesector Resources Group /  
Telcordia / Tennessee Valley Authority / Texas Instruments /  
TIAA-CREF / Transamerica / UCLA / Ullico / Union Pacific /  
UnitedHealthCare / United Airlines / University of California /  
UPS / U.S. Air Force / U.S. Airways / U.S. Bureau of  
Reclamation / U.S. Marine Corp. / U.S. Air Force / U.S. Army /  
U.S. Navy / USAF Trucking / US West-Qwest / USPS / Verizon /  
Visteon / WA PERS / Wells Fargo / Western Union /  
Weyerhaeuser / Xerox /

September 12, 2022

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

Dear Chairman Wyden:

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 Finance on the following four bills.

**S.701, Allergy Testing Access Act of 2021.** More than 50 million Americans suffer from allergies each year, and the symptoms range from mild to life-threatening. Without proper diagnosis, patients are likely to receive suboptimal care which can lead to serious asthma attacks or even anaphylactic shock. This legislation will remove barriers inhibiting patient coverage and access to safe and accurate allergy tests, by requiring equal coverage of two types of allergy tests under Medicare and Medicaid.

**S.800, Promoting Access to Diabetic Shoes Act.** Diabetic patients often benefit from the use of therapeutic shoes, which are intended to prevent complications like foot ulcers, calluses, or amputations that can result from diabetes. Under current law, such requirements may be satisfied only by a physician. This forces patients to endure a time-consuming process to obtain the therapeutic shoes. This bill would allow a nurse practitioner or physician assistant to fulfill documentation requirements for coverage, under Medicare, of special shoes for diabetic individuals.

**S.828, Mental Health Access Improvement Act of 2021,** would allow America's seniors access to marriage and family therapists (MFTs) and licensed mental health counselors (LMHCs) through Medicare. This will increase access to existing mental health professionals and allow them to treat more of America's seniors.

**S.4750, 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 Senate to pass **S.4750** 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 **S.701, S.800, S.828 and S.4750**, please contact me or Alyson Parker, NRLN Executive Director, on her cell phone at 813-545-6792 or [executivedirector@nrln.org](mailto:executivedirector@nrln.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Kadereit". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the typed name.

Bill Kadereit, President

National Retiree Legislative Network

Email: [president@nrln.org](mailto:president@nrln.org) Phone: 972-722-5928