



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)  
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American retirees from...**

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September 12, 2022

The Honorable Michael Crapo, Ranking Member  
Committee on Finance  
United States Senate  
239 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-1205

Dear Senator Crapo:

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 support calling 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, slightly slanted style.

Bill Kadereit, President

National Retiree Legislative Network

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