

December 10, 2009

To: NRLN Grassroots Network Members

From: NRLN President Bill Kadereit

Subject: NRLN Action Alert – Senators Should Support Medicare Buy-In For Ages 55-64

Millions of older Americans—possibly many from your former company—have lost their health care coverage because they have been laid off, forced to retire early or their employer has eliminated medical insurance. They have found the purchase of medical coverage very expensive and in many cases unaffordable. This is why the NRLN has been lobbying to allow older men and women not yet age 65 to buy into Medicare at a reasonable cost.

Now, the U.S. Senate in its deliberations on health care reform legislation is considering allowing Americans ages 55-64 to buy into the Medicare plan starting as soon as 2011. Please send the NRLN's sample letter to your Senators asking them to support the Medicare buy-in for those in the 55-64 age bracket. Go to <http://capwiz.com/abtr/home/> to access the NRLN Action Alert. Look for the Action Alert headline: SENATORS SHOULD SUPPORT MEDICARE BUY-IN FOR AGES 55-64. Click on the "Take Action" button. On the next screen, type in your zip code and click "GO" to identify your Senators and access the sample letter. Be sure to personalize the letter with your own comments. If you have a problem accessing the Action Alert with the above link, go to [www.nrln.org](http://www.nrln.org) and click on the "Take Action Now" headline at the top of the NRLN website's home page. Send your email today.

It would also help to call the Washington, DC or state/district office of your Senators. Use the information in the sample letter to urge Medicare buy-in for ages 55-64. Phone numbers can be found through the NRLN's Capwiz website at <http://capwiz.com/abtr/dbq/officials/>. The more constituents who write and call their Senators, the better chance there is in gaining their attention on an issue of great importance to millions of older citizens.

Men and women ages 55-64 who lack employer-based coverage are exposed to age-rated premiums that average 5 times higher than younger people pay. They are also more likely to be denied coverage and/or have exclusions for pre-existing conditions.

Because the Senate is now heavily engaged in determining the provisions of its health care reform bill, email your letters and make your phone calls today. Thank you for your help.

Bill Kadereit  
President, National Retiree Legislative Network