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June 18, 2015

The Honorable Eliot Engel  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2462 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-3216

Dear Representative Engel:

On behalf of the more than 2 million retirees represented by the National Retiree Legislative Network (NRLN), I want to thank you for sponsoring **H.R. 1343 – Establish Beneficiary Equity in the Hospital Readmissions Act of 2015.**

The NRLN agrees with you and Representative Jim Renacci that it is critical that the Hospital Readmission Reduction Program's unfair and misguided penalty structure be addressed so that the program no longer takes resources from hospitals that serve low-income populations.

Also, **H.R. 1343** needs to be passed in order to require CMS to exclude certain categories of patients whose frequent hospitalizations are often clinically necessary or can be attributed to outside factors or the patient's refusal to comply with his or her physician's recommended medical treatment.

I have also sent a thank you letter to Representative Renacci and I have expressed the NRLN's appreciation to Senator Rob Portman and Senator Joe Manchin for introducing S. 688, the companion legislation in the U.S. Senate.

If the NRLN can help gain the passage of **H.R. 1343**, please contact me or Marta Bascom, the NRLN's Executive Director in Washington, DC at 703-863-9611 or [executivedirector@nrln.org](mailto:executivedirector@nrln.org).

The NRLN's full Legislative Agenda and detailed whitepapers can be found at [www.nrln.org](http://www.nrln.org). Your consideration on these issues would also be appreciated.

Sincerely,

President, National Retiree Legislative Network

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