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

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June 18, 2015

The Honorable Rob Portman
United States Senate
448 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-3506

Dear Senator Portman:

On behalf of the more than 2 million retirees represented by the National Retiree Legislative Network (NRLN), I want to thank you for introducing **S. 688 – Establish Beneficiary Equity in the Hospital Readmissions Act of 2015.**

The NRLN believes 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, **S. 688** 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 Senator Joe Manchin and I have expressed the NRLN's appreciation to Rep. Jim Renacci and Rep. Eliot Engel for introducing **H.R. 1343**, the companion legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives.

If the NRLN can help gain the passage of **S. 688**, please contact me or Marta Bascom, the NRLN's Executive Director in Washington, DC at 703-863-9611 or executivedirector@nrln.org.

The NRLN's full Legislative Agenda and detailed whitepapers can be found at 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