



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 Website: www.nrln.org Facebook:
www.facebook.com/nrln1 Twitter: www.twitter.com/nrln1

Board of Directors

Bill Kadereit, President / **Robert Tompkins**, VP – Secretary /
Treasurer / **Ed Beltram**, VP – Communications / **Bob Martina**,
VP – Grassroots Network / **Dana Oliver**, VP - Regulatory &
Membership Development / **Judy Stenberg**, VP – Legislative
Affairs / **Jane Banfield** / **Martha Deahl** / **Joe Dombrowski** /
Cynthia Hadsell / **Jay Kuhnne** / **Janet Seefried**

Washington & Support Staff

Alyson Parker, Executive Director / **Michael Calabrese**,
Legislative Adviser / **Joe Sciuilli**, Webmaster

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

Aetna / Agere / Agilent / Albertson / American Airlines / AT&T-
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 / BellSouth / 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 / Cooper Tires/
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 / RECSEA / Rock-Tenn Co. /
Rocky Mount Mills / Rohm & Haas Co. / Rouse Co. / Salis / Sears
/ SEIU/CSEA / Semptra 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 / United
Telephone / 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/

June 5, 2019

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2107 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-3006

Dear Chairman Pallone:

On behalf of the more than 2 million retirees and future retirees represented by the National Retiree Legislative Network, I am requesting that you call for a vote in the Committee on Energy and Commerce on **H.R. 1682, Improving Access To Medicare Coverage Act of 2019** and **H.R. 2150, Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act of 2019**.

Under the current Medicare policy, a beneficiary must have an “inpatient” hospital stay of at least three days in order for Medicare to cover post-hospitalization skilled nursing care. Patients that receive hospital care under “observation status” do not qualify for this benefit, even if their hospital stay lasts longer than three days.

H.R. 1682 would update this loophole in Medicare policy to help protect seniors from high medical costs for the skilled nursing care they may require after hospitalization. Passage of the bill would allow for the time patients spend in the hospital under “observation status” to count toward the requisite three-day hospital stay for coverage of skilled nursing care.

H.R. 2150 would improve the access Medicare beneficiaries have to home health care by allowing physician assistants, nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, and certified nurse midwives to order home health services. Under current law, only physicians are allowed to certify or initiate home health care for Medicare patients, even though they may not be as familiar with the patient's case.

There are far too many cases of seniors experiencing unnecessary delays in accessing home health care because the physician was not available to order the care promptly. To avoid these needless delays, it is common sense that other medical professionals who are familiar with a patient's case should be able to order these services.

It is very important that these two bills apply to participants in both original Medicare and Medicare Advantage (MA) plans. Approving benefit coverage for 20 million Medicare Advantage private plan enrollees but denying the same benefit for 38.8 million entitled to equal benefit coverage under Medicare Parts A & B makes no sense and violates the Presidents promise not to withhold or reduce Medicare benefits.

To learn more about why the NRLN supports **H.R. 1682 and H.R. 2150**, please ask a member of your staff to contact me or Alyson Parker, the NRLN's Executive Director in Washington, DC at 813-545-6792 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 be appreciated.

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
Phone: 972-722-5928
Email: president@nrln.org