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

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September 11, 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 (NRLN), I am requesting that you call for votes in the Committee on Energy and Commerce on **H.R. 1730, Cancer Drug Parity Act of 2019** and **H.R. 3924, Streamlining Part D Appeals Process**.

Advances in cancer treatment have made it possible for Americans to get life-saving oral cancer medication in a far less intrusive way than traditional IV chemotherapy. But since oral cancer medications are self-administered, many people are having to pay more out-of-pocket because this medication isn't covered the same way as IV treatments. Passage of **H.R. 1730** would prevent insurers from covering oral and self-administered medicines at different cost-sharing rates than IV chemotherapy.

Currently, a pharmacy counter refusal does not qualify as a "coverage determination," which a beneficiary must obtain before initiating a Medicare Part D plan appeal. A beneficiary must then work with his/her provider to file a Part D exception request. Only upon receipt of a written denial is the beneficiary permitted to request a formal appeal. Passage of **H.R. 3924** would allow the refusal at the pharmacy counter to serve as a formal denial, eliminating several unnecessary and time-consuming steps.

If you would like to know more about why the NRLN supports **H.R. 1730** and **H.R. 3924**, 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,

Bill Kadereit, President,
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Email: president@nrln.org