



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
www.facebook.com/nrln1 www.twitter.com/nrln3

Board of Directors

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

Washington & Support Staff

Alyson Parker, Executive Director / **Michael Calabrese**, Legislative
Adviser / **Ed Beltram**, VP - Communications / **Joe Sculli**,
Webmaster

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

Aetna / Agere / Agilent / Albertson / American Airlines /
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 / 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 / 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 / Rock-Tenn Co. / Rocky Mount Mills / Rohm
& Haas Co. / Rouse Co. / Salis / Sears / SEIU/CSEA / Sempra 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 /
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 /

August 19, 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 a vote in the Committee on Energy and Commerce on **H.R. 2573, House Health Payment Innovation Act of 2019**. Passage of this bill would preserve access to existing home health services under Medicare while also providing for innovative approaches to using these services vital to 3.5 million seniors.

The bill would make two key adjustments in home health payment reform provisions that were passed last year. First, it would prevent unwarranted payment rate cuts by basing any behavioral adjustment on actual evidence. Second, it would limit the risk of disruption in care by providing a phase in for any necessary rate increases or decreases. This phase in is critical for home health care providers as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has proposed cutting Medicare payment rates in 2020 by more than \$1 billion in the first year alone based exclusively on unsubstantiated assumptions about provider behavior, rather than observable evidence or real-world data.

Medicare's home health benefit has provided critical care for patients with certain disabilities who have difficulty accessing outpatient care facilities and for others returning home after a hospital stay. These beneficiaries are often the sickest and most vulnerable patients within the Medicare program. They are more likely to live in communities that are underserved, impoverished, and have fewer health care provider options.

If you would like to know more about why the NRLN supports **H.R. 2573**, 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,
National Retiree Legislative Network
Phone: 972-722-5928 Email: president@nrln.org