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September 11, 2019

The Honorable Chuck Grassley, Chairman
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-1501

Dear Chairman Grassley:

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 Finance on **S. 1861, Streamlining Part D Appeals Process Act**.

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 **S. 1861** 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 **S. 1861**, 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