



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](mailto:contact@nrln.org) Website: [www.nrln.org](http://www.nrln.org)  
[www.facebook.com/nrln1](https://www.facebook.com/nrln1) [www.twitter.com/nrln3](https://www.twitter.com/nrln3)

#### Board of Directors

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

#### Washington & Support Staff

**Alyson Parker**, Executive Director  
**Michael Calabrese**, Legislative Adviser

#### *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 /

April 7, 2020

The Honorable Greg Walden, Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2185 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-3702

Dear Representative Walden:

Due to COVID-19 there are daily news reports about the demand for ventilators in hospitals across our nation.

**H.R. 4945, Safeguarding Medicare Access to Respiratory Therapy Act of 2019**, is pending in the Energy and Commerce Committee and has been referred to the Subcommittee on Health. The bill would delay the inclusion of medical ventilators from competitive acquisition programs under Medicare for five years.

While now is not the time during the Coronavirus Pandemic to make a decision about Medicare's purchase of ventilators, the National Retiree Legislative Network (NRLN) believes that Medicare should do competitive bidding for ventilators.

The NRLN's definition of competitive bidding is the business model:

-- Medicare would determine annual demand for ventilators, quality definitions, monthly scheduled deliveries.

-- Identify suppliers capable of producing ventilators. Issue a request for quote (RFQ) that includes specifications, volume level and capability of meeting time frame for shipments and billing requirements.

-- Select the top 2 or 3 bids (best prices) with capability of delivering quality ventilators on time. Determine percent of orders to award to 2 or 3 suppliers. Multiple suppliers ensures supply in the event one supplier cannot perform as required.

Hospitals, urban and rural, should be able to acquire ventilators at the price under Medicare's contract.

If you would like to know more about how NRLN views competitive bidding, 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](mailto:executivedirector@nrln.org).

Sincerely,

Bill Kadereit, President,  
National Retiree Legislative Network  
Phone: 972-722-5928  
Email: [president@nrln.org](mailto:president@nrln.org)

