



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

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

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July 7, 2020

The Honorable Kevin Brady, Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
1011 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-4308

Dear Representative Brady:

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 support calling for a vote in the Committee on Ways and Means to approve **H.R.5076, Protecting Seniors Through Immunization Act of 2019.**

Passage of **H.R. 5076** would reduce financial barriers by providing Medicare coverage of vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices with no additional cost-sharing for beneficiaries. This would apply immediately to shingles, tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap). Medicare coverage also would apply to new vaccines as they are approved, like the anticipated vaccines against respiratory syncytial virus and clostridium difficile. It should also apply when a vaccine is approved to prevent COVID-19.

Immunization coverage varies by vaccine under Medicare. Some immunizations – such as the flu, hepatitis B, and pneumococcal vaccines – are covered under Medicare Part B and available without additional out-of-pocket spending. Vaccines covered under Medicare Part D, including the shingles and Tdap vaccines, often require significant beneficiary cost-sharing. Too many seniors on Medicare weigh the health benefits of getting immunized against the out-of-pocket cost of immunizations.

H.R. 5076 would improve the education of Medicare beneficiaries by including information about coverage of vaccines in the Medicare & You Handbook and require a study on the level of immunizations among Medicare beneficiaries.

To learn more about why the NRLN supports passage of **H.R. 5076**, 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. Please let me know whether you will support the passage of **H.R. 5076**.

Sincerely,

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