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

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April 7, 2020

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'm requesting that you call for votes in the Committee on Energy and Commerce on **H.R. 5534, Comprehensive Immunosuppressive Drug Coverage for Kidney Transplant Patients Act of 2019**, and **H.R. 6179, Increasing Access to Biosimilars Act of 2020**.

Passage of **H.R. 5534** would eliminate the time limit on Medicare Part B paying for immunosuppressive drugs for seniors who receive kidney transplants. These drugs are required to keep the body from rejecting the new organ. Current law only covers transplant recipients for 36 months after a transplant occurs. Because of the out-of-pocket cost after 36 months, many transplant patients ration their medications or stop taking their drugs which results in kidney failure and going back on dialysis.

Passage of **H.R. 6179** would require the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to establish a demonstration project to evaluate the benefits of providing additional Medicare payments to providers of biosimilar drugs. Under the demonstration project, participating biosimilar providers would receive an additional payment from Medicare on the difference between the costs to the provider and the cost if the provider had furnished a biological drug instead.

If you would like to know more about why NRLN supports passage of **H.R. 5534** and **H.R. 6179**, 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.

Sincerely,

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