



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

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September 15, 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 am requesting that you call for a vote in the Committee on Energy and Commerce on **H.R. 6971, Medical Nutrition Therapy Act of 2020.**

Currently, original Medicare Part B (medical insurance) provides Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT) for beneficiaries with only diabetes or kidney disease. MNT services must also be provided by a registered dietitian or nutrition professional pursuant to a physician referral.

Passage of **H.R. 6971** would provide coverage to individuals with other diseases and conditions, including obesity, eating disorders, cancer, and HIV/AIDS. Such services may also be referred by a physician assistant, nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, or (for eating disorders) a clinical psychologist.

Medicare Advantage (MA) plans are required to cover MNT without applying deductibles, copayments, or coinsurance when an MA enrollee see an in-network provider and meet Medicare's eligibility requirements for MNT services.

This is a prime example of how Congress, in 2020, is providing \$271 billion in federal rebate payments to private insurance companies to provide benefits, some of this money will fund MA benefits only such as nutrition services, to 26 million seniors in MA plans when the same benefits are not available to the 44 million original Medicare beneficiaries. This is unfair and discriminatory to the seniors in original Medicare.

If you would like to know more about why the NRLN supports **H.R. 6971** and learn why the NRLN's whitepaper opposes legislated subsidies and restrictions placed on original Medicare Fee-for-Service (FFS) just to create the illusion that private insurance plans are more effective, please ask a member of your staff to contact me or Alyson Parker, NRLN Executive Director in Washington, DC, at executivedirector@nrln.org or 813-545-6792.

Sincerely,

Bill Kadereit, President

National Retiree Legislative Network

Email: president@nrln.org Phone: 972-722-5928