



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 Facebook:
www.facebook.com/nrln1 Twitter: www.twitter.com/nrln3

Board of Directors

Bill Kadereit, President / **Robert Tompkins**, VP – Secretary /
Treasurer / **Ed Beltram**, VP – Communications / **Bob Martina**, VP –
Grassroots Network / **Dana Oliver**, VP - Regulatory & Membership
Development / **Judy Stenberg**, VP – Legislative Affairs / **Jane
Banfield** / **Martha Deahl** / **Joe Dombrowski** / **Cynthia Hadsell** / **Jay
Kuhnie** / **Janet Seefried**

Washington & Support Staff

Alyson Parker, Executive Director / **Michael Calabrese**, Legislative
Adviser / **Joe Sciuilli**, Webmaster

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

Aetna / Agere / Agilent / Albertson / American Airlines / AT&T-
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 / BellSouth / 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 / Cooper Tires/ 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 / Pennsylvania / 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 / RECSEA / 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 / United Telephone / 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/

July 8, 2019

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, I am requesting that you call for a vote in the Committee Energy and Commerce on ***H.R. 2693, Increasing Access to Osteoporosis Testing for Medicare Beneficiaries Act.***

Approximately 54 million Americans either have osteoporosis or low bone mass, placing them at increased risk for osteoporosis. Women account for 71 percent of osteoporotic fractures.

Early diagnosis and treatment of osteoporosis have proven to dramatically reduce fracture rates. Since those most at risk are seniors on Medicare, it's essential Medicare reimbursement rates adequately cover the tests that measure bone mass and predict fracture risk. Medicare reimbursement rates are not adequate. In fact, they've been moving in the wrong direction.

Medicare reimbursement for osteoporosis screening has declined from \$140 in 2007 to \$42 in 2018. As a result of reduced screening due to declining reimbursements, it is estimated that more than 40,000 additional hip fractures occur each year, resulting in nearly 10,000 hip-fracture deaths.

Passage of ***H.R. 2693*** would create a floor reimbursement rate under Medicare Part B for the dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry (DXA) tests. Congress has twice recognized the importance of reversing Medicare cuts to DXA reimbursement in order to maintain patient access, yet the Medicare reimbursement rate for DXA tests administered in a doctor's office has been cut significantly. As osteoporosis is under-diagnosed among Medicare beneficiaries, it's important to enact ***H.R. 2693***.

To learn more about why the NRLN supports this bill, 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