

“Inpatient” vs “Observation” Status on Hospital Stay-Big Difference

I want to encourage everyone who can to respond to the latest NRLN Action Alert in support of HR 3531. For those who do not have access to the internet, NRLN Action Alerts are requests for NRLN Grassroots Advocates to send an email to their Representative and both Senators on a particular issue that would benefit seniors. This latest Action Alert was in support of HR 3531, which would create access to rehabilitation for every senior without the burden of full cost. Under current Medicare payment policy, in order for Medicare to cover Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) services, seniors must have an “inpatient” hospital stay lasting at least three days. Many seniors are often unaware that the hospital has admitted them for “observation” rather than “inpatient” status. This is because they are receiving the same services in the hospital either way. They don’t find out until they have been transferred to an SNF and receive that bill.

Grassroots Advocates in Action

The Arizona Chapter just sent out an email to all Arizona NRLN Grassroots advocates requesting them to call their Representative to request them to support HR 3531 and a similar bill HR 1179, which has a companion bill in the Senate, S569. Advocates were also asked to call both Senators requesting them to co-sponsor S569 and introduce a Senate bill that would be a companion bill to HR 3531. For those of you without email we could use your help doing the same. Contact numbers for Arizona Congressional Representatives and Senators are:

<p>Senator John McCain (R-AZ) 2201 E. Camelback Rd., Ste 115 Phoenix, AZ 85016 Phone: 602-952-2410</p> <p>407 W. Congress St., Ste 103 Tucson, AZ 85701 Phone: 520-670-6334</p>	<p>Representative Paul Gosar (R) (AZ CD-4) 122 N. Cortez St., Ste 104 Prescott, AZ 86301 Phone: 928-445-1683</p>
<p>Senator Jeff Flake (R-AZ) 2200 E. Camelback Rd., Ste 120 Phoenix, AZ 85016 Phone: 602-840-1891</p> <p>6840 N. Oracle Rd., Ste 150 Tucson, AZ 85704 Phone: 520-575-8633</p>	<p>Representative Matt Salmon (R) (AZ CD-5) 207 N. Gilbert Rd., Ste 209 Gilbert, AZ 85234 Phone: 480-699-8239</p>
<p>Representative Ann Kirkpatrick (D) (AZ CD-1) 405 N. Beaver St., Ste 6 Flagstaff, AZ 86001 Phone: 928-213-9977</p>	<p>Representative David Schweikert (R) (AZ CD-6) 10603 N. Hayden Rd., Ste 108 Scottsdale, AZ 85260 Phone: 480-946-2411</p>
<p>Representative Ron Barber (D) (AZ CD-2) 3945 E. Fort Lowell Rd., Ste 211 Tucson, AZ 85712 Phone: 520-881-3588</p>	<p>Representative Ed Pastor (D) (AZ CD-7) 411 N. Central Ave., Ste 150 Phoenix, AZ 85004 Phone: 602-256-0551</p>
<p>Representative Raul Grijalva (D) (AZ CD-3) 13065 W. McDowell Rd., Ste C-123 Avondale, AZ 85392 Phone: 623-536-3388</p>	<p>Representative Trent Franks (R) (AZ CD-8) 7121 W. Bell Rd., Ste 200 Glendale, AZ 85308 Phone: 623-776-7911</p>
	<p>Representative Kyrsten Sinema (D) (AZ CD-9) 2944 N. 44th St., Ste 150 Phoenix, AZ 85018 Phone: 602-956-2285</p>

2014 Is an Important Election Year

We would encourage everyone that has not registered to vote to do so. The deadline to register for the primary is Monday, July 28, 2014. This is an important election, and we urge everyone to vote.

Appointments Are Being Made

Your Arizona Chapter Congressional District Leaders are busy making appointments to visit every Congressional District Representative and both Senators. June and August are perfect months to make visits to local offices. In addition to the Medicare bills mentioned above, we will be talking about the need to move current Prescription Drug Reform Bills out of committees. We will also be presenting information on Pensions and the risk involved for seniors if CenturyLink would decide to move current pensions to an annuity like Verizon did in 2013. If any of you would like to accompany your District Representative on a visit, please contact him/her. We would be delighted to have the company. If you need more information about this, access www.nrln.org and on the menu across the top, highlight "Legislative Action, use the pull down menu to access "NRLN White Papers" or "NRLN Talking Points" on the subject you have questions about or call your Arizona Chapter Congressional District Leader. If you are not sure which Congressional District you are in, please give any one of us a call.

Contact numbers for your specific Congressional District Leader are as follows:

YOUR NRLN ARIZONA CHAPTER LEADERS

Martha Deahl Senator McCain Senator Flake 602-504-6774 arizonachapter@nrln.org President	Don Jensen – AZ01 520-818-1751 thejensens@att.net	Rick Giffin – AZ02/AZ03 520-294-5829 eg4586@gmail.com	Susan Olson – AZ04 602-995-3197 seolson47@gmail.com
Todd Erickson – AZ05 480-600-1414 Todd9500@msn.com	Roger Sanger – AZ06 480-994-0081 rlaesanger@yahoo.com	Martha Deahl – AZ07/AZ08 602-504-6774 arizonachapter@nrln.org President	Susan Olson – AZ09 602-995-3197 seolson47@gmail.com

We need your financial support. If you have not done so, please send in your contribution today. Thank you!

*Please become an advocate of the National Retiree Legislative Network ARIZONA Chapter by filling out this form and making an annual financial contribution of \$25, \$50, \$75 or more. Any amount you can contribute will be appreciated. You may make your check or money order payable to **NRLN, Inc. and mail it to P.O. Box 18757, Washington, D.C.20036-8757**. Or, make your contribution with your credit card on the NRLN website at www.nrln.org. Click on the "Join Us" tab on the home page and select "Support the NRLN."*

National Retiree Legislative Network - Arizona Chapter Advocate Application Form

The NRLN is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization. Contributions are not tax deductible.

NAME: _____ AGE: _____ UNDER 55: _____ 55-64: _____ 65 OR OVER

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE _____ : ZIP: ZIP+4: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS (IF AVAILABLE): _____

I get my pension check from _____ (name of company) Years Retired _____