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

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November 1, 2021

The Honorable Ron Wyden, Chairman
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-3703

Dear Chairman Wyden:

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 votes in the Committee on Finance on **S.1986, Increasing Access to Quality Cardiac Rehabilitation Care Act of 2021**, and **S.2562, Choose Home Care Act of 2021**.

Currently, only physicians are authorized to order and supervise cardiac or pulmonary rehabilitation for Medicare patients. This can create unnecessary obstacles before patients can receive the rehabilitation services. It makes it difficult for programs to operate in areas where physicians are scarce.

S.1986 would expand and expedite access to rehabilitation services by authorizing physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and clinical nurse specialists to order cardiac rehabilitation and pulmonary rehabilitation under Medicare and begin supervising this care in 2022.

Medicare's current home health benefit offers part-time nursing services, in-home therapies, social services and medical supplies for only 60 days. Medicare beneficiaries aren't eligible for home care if they need more than intermittent skilled nursing services.

H.R.5514 would allow nursing home care-eligible patients who have Medicare the option of home care after leaving the hospital. They would be able to receive nursing care, physical or occupational therapy, and speech language pathology services at home, including through telehealth. Medicare beneficiaries would also be able to get meals and nutritional support; remote patient monitoring; medical social services; home health aides and personal care services; respite care and family caregiver support and training; assistance with drug regimens; medical supplies and equipment for home use; nonemergency medical transportation; care coordination; and other items and services deemed necessary by the home health agency.

Passage of **H.R.5514** could save the Medicare program \$144 million to \$247 million per year by avoiding nursing home stays, according to an independent analysis commissioned by the Partnership for Quality Home Healthcare.

If you would like to learn more about why the NRLN supports **S.1986** and **S.2562**, please contact me or Alyson Parker, NRLN Executive Director, on her cell phone at 813-545-6792 or executivedirector@nrln.org.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Bill Kadereit in black ink.

Bill Kadereit, President
National Retiree Legislative Network
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Phone: 972-722-5928