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June 9, 2025

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

Dear Senator Wyden:

On behalf of the more than 2 million members of the National Retiree Legislative Network (NRLN), I am requesting that you call for votes in the Committee on Finance on the following two bills:

S.1173, Restore Protections for Dialysis Patients Act, would ensure individuals with End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD), or kidney failure, continue to have access to private healthcare. The law has long allowed ESRD patients to remain on employer-sponsored health coverage for 30 months following their diagnosis, a fair period of time before transitioning to Medicare as their primary insurance provider.

However, in *Marietta Memorial Hospital v. Davita*, the Supreme Court ruled that employers and insurers can impose low rates for dialysis or use other benefit limitations forcing patients to drop coverage and switch to Medicare prematurely. This upended an interpretation of existing law which stood for 40 years, wherein employers understood the law to prohibit limitations specific to dialysis treatments. Employer-sponsored plans hold enormous importance for many patients and their families, often offering more comprehensive care options not covered by Medicare.

S.1643, Protecting Access to Ground Ambulance Medical Services Act, would prevent a gap in much-needed funding for local ground ambulance services for providers that service rural, super-rural and urban communities that are set to expire on October 1, 2025. The legislation provides some relief for the substantial cost increases in labor, vehicle, equipment, drugs and devices that local services are encountering and that current policy does not address.”

The bill would extend and increase Medicare payments for ambulance services in all communities to close the gap between Medicare reimbursement and the cost of providing services. This will help ambulance service providers hire and retain EMT staff, update their equipment, and continue providing lifesaving medical care across the country.

If you would like to learn more about why NRLN supports these bills, please contact me or Alyson Parker, NRLN Executive Director in Washington, DC, at parkerstrategies@gmail.com or call 813-545-6792.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Kadereit". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bill Kadereit, President

National Retiree Legislative Network

Email: bkad@sbcglobal.net Phone: 972-722-5928

Copy to Sponsors of the Bills:

Senator Bill Cassidy

Senator Catherine Cortez Masto