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July 14, 2025

The Honorable Jason Smith, Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
1011 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Smith:

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 Ways and Means on the following bills:

H.R.1616, Promoting Access to Diabetic Shoes Act, would improve care for patients with diabetes by allowing nurse practitioners and physician associates/physician assistants—who often act as sole primary care providers for many patients with diabetes—to prescribe therapeutic shoes. Managing the disease through physical activity, diet, and medication, diabetic patients often benefit from the use of therapeutic shoes, which are an important preventive measure to mitigate complications that can necessitate the amputation of toes, feet, and legs.

H.R.3501 Concentrating on High-Value Alzheimer's Needs to get to an End (CHANGE) Act, would promote early detection and diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. It directs the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to identify cognitive impairment detection tools to help clinicians more effectively detect, refer and diagnose Alzheimer's and related dementias in their earliest stages when intervention can be most impactful. It is estimated that 6.9 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease. About one in eleven Americans age 65 and older has Alzheimer's. It is the fifth-leading cause of death in our nation among Americans aged 65 and older.

H.R.3514, Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act of 2025, would improve access to care for seniors enrolled in Medicare Advantage (MA) plans at no cost to American taxpayers. The legislation focuses on streamlining the often cumbersome and time-consuming prior authorization process, ultimately allowing healthcare providers to spend more time on patient care rather than administrative burdens.

H.R.3826, Expanding Access to Diabetes Self-Management Training Act of 2025, would expand Medicare coverage for diabetes self-management training (DSMT) sessions, where diabetes educators help train Medicare patients on how to manage their glucose, maintain a healthy weight, eat healthy foods, manage their insulin levels and improve general care for their diabetes. DSMT is associated with a reduction in risk for diabetes-related death and heart attack and leads to improved self-care behavior and wellness, which greatly reduces hospital care costs. In America, 38.4 million live with diabetes and 1 in 3 adults have prediabetes, a condition that is known to progress to diabetes without early intervention.

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,



Bill Kadereit, President

National Retiree Legislative Network

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

Copy to Sponsors of the Bills:

Representative Darin LaHood (IL-16) H.R.1616

Representative Linda Sanchez (CA-38) H.R.3501

Representative Mike Kelly (PA16) H.R.3514

Representative Kim Schrier (WA-08) H.R.3826