



NRLN Review



NRLN Review, Summary for March 2026

The NRLN Review provides a monthly report on National Retiree Legislative Network actions, events in Congress and important retirement news. The Review calls your attention to what the NRLN believes to be the month's very important articles for retirees, plus our comments. Headline links to articles posted on the www.nrln.org homepage during the month are also included at the end of this Review.

NRLN Supports Eliminating the Cap on Social Security Taxes

The first article reports that in 2026, earnings up to \$184,500 are subject to Social Security payroll taxes. As of Monday [March 9], individuals with \$1 million in annual wage and salary earnings have stopped paying into the program for this calendar year, according to the Center for Economic and Policy Research. In the other article Senator Patty Murray (WA) makes a similar point at the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office. The NRLN advocates eliminating the wage cap for Social Security payroll taxes. The Social Security Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) Trust Fund will only be able to pay 100% of total scheduled benefits until 2033, according to the latest Trustees report. At that time, reserves will be depleted, and income will only be sufficient to pay 77% of benefits.

[Million-dollar earners have already stopped paying into Social Security for 2026](#)

CNBC – March 9

[Senate Dems tout clip that accidentally proves truth about Social Security](#)

The Western Journal – March 26

Medicare Multi-Cancer Screening Bill in NRLN Action Alert Has Passed

The article below reports Medicare will now cover tests that screen for multiple types of cancer. **H.R.842, and S.339, Nancy Gardner Sewell Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act**, now allows for multi-cancer early detection (MCED) tests to be covered by Medicare in a timely manner upon approval by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The bill was part of an NRLN Action Alert issued on April 16, 2025. Often it takes Congress a while to get around to doing the right thing for Medicare beneficiaries.

[Medicare's expansion: Millions could gain from expanded multi-cancer test coverage](#)

Econostrum – March 19

NRLN Told Congress Cases Like This Would Happen

This article reports on an 83-year-old man living in Seattle. The lower part of his spinal canal has narrowed and the resulting pressure on his nerves causes pain whenever he walks or even stands for more than a few minutes. There exists a treatment that could provide him with immediate and long-term relief called Minimally Invasive Lumbar Decompression (MILD). It is covered by his traditional Medicare plan. But he may not be able

to get MILD any time soon – if ever. That’s because at the start of 2026, Medicare launched a pilot program to review certain medical services for enrollees in Washington state and five other states (AZ, NJ OH, OK, TX). In February, he was denied the surgery because of one component of back treatment plan.

The NRLN has opposed the six-year CMS trial in the six states. On August 20, 2025, the NRLN issued an Action Alert asking its members to tell their members of Congress to prevent the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) trial for traditional Medicare prior authorization which has been a disaster for many Medicare Advantage (MA) enrollees.

[New Medicare program using AI leaves WA patients in pain](#)

Seattle Times – March 18

NRLN Continues to Advocate for Pension Risk Transfer Protection

This article reports the pension risk transfer [de-risking] market collected \$48.8 billion in premiums in 2025, according to Mercer—the fourth year in a row to exceed \$45 billion. For comparison, PRT volume stood at \$14.1 billion in 2016. Foremost among the protections that the NRLN advocates on PRT is that an annuity contract must provide for full reinsurance of the monthly benefit itself. Only a group annuity contract that requires independent, third-party reinsurance by a highly rated insurance company can reliably replace PBGC’s guarantee and protect pension plan participants.

[More Than Litigation Could Curtail Future PRT Transaction Volume](#)

Chief Investment Officer - March 19

Key News Articles Posted in March

During March 57 links to news articles related to retirement issues were researched and posted IN THE NEWS on the NRLN website home page. The headlines below are links to the articles. Or read the articles at www.nrln.org under IN THE NEWS in the right column. Scroll down the right column and click on the headline to access the article you want to read. Below are some of the headline links.

[Trump Admin Issues New Warning Tied to Medicare and Medicaid](#) – March 31

[Opinion: Time to reform Social Security is running out faster than you think](#) – March 31

[Tech nonprofit sues CMS over Medicare AI prior authorization pilot](#) – March 30

[Medicare Advantage changes 2026: What's no longer covered](#) – March 29

[Opinion: President Donald Trump has dug a nearly \\$169 billion hole for Social Security](#) – March 28

[Save Hundreds on Cataract Surgery With These Medicare Money Hacks](#) – March 27

[Rising health costs push some middle-aged adults to skip the doc until Medicare](#) – March 26

[Senate Dems tout clip that accidentally proves truth about Social Security](#) – March 26

[The Social Security Fairness Act promised bigger checks - here’s why some haven’t seen them](#) – March 26

[Medicare To Pay Docs To Reduce Falls By Seniors While WH Curbs Other Efforts](#) – March 25

[Lawmakers get another warning about looming Social Security shortfall](#) – March 25

[‘The cost of waiting is only getting higher’: BlackRock’s Larry Fink says Social Security needs an overhaul so Americans can grow wealth](#) – March 25

[A pro-growth proposal to strengthen Social Security](#) – March 25

[A proposal would cap Social Security at \\$100,000. Will it fly?](#) – March 25

[Poll: 1 in 3 Adults Are Turning to AI Chatbots for Health Information, Equaling the Share Who Use Social Media for Health](#) – March 25

[Millions see Medicare premiums rise: The hidden reason behind the increase](#) – March 24

[New Medicare Advantage Supplemental Benefits Not Very Beneficial](#) – March 24

[Medicare makes change impacting millions across 24 states](#) – March 24

[Medicare and Medicaid Services says new rule could save taxpayers \\$781 million every year](#) – March 23

[Dr. Oz’s Medicare “Accuracy” Plan Under Fire: A Reform Or A Stealth Cut?](#) – March 21

[Medicare Advantage in the Hot Seat](#) – March 20

[Retirees Say Their Social Security Checks Fall Short — It’s Putting Their Finances at Risk](#) – March 20

[More Than Litigation Could Curtail Future PRT Transaction Volume - March 19](#)
[Medicare's expansion: Millions could gain from expanded multi-cancer test coverage – March 19](#)
[New Medicare program using AI leaves WA patients in pain – March 18](#)
[Social Security chaos under scrutiny as Gillibrand, Democrats launch investigation into SSA service failures – March 18](#)
[Is Trump's 'Senior Bonus' better than no taxes on Social Security? We did the math – March 17](#)
[Florida tops list of states where hospitals charge highest markups over Medicare: Watchdog – March 16](#)
[Social Security 'clawbacks' and Medicare caps: new scams targeting seniors in 2026 – March 16](#)
[Social Security warning issued over drastic change impacting millions – March 16](#)
[Seniors overpaid Medicare premiums by \\$13.4B in 2025. That's about \\$212 for every enrollee, Joint Economic Committee estimates – March 15](#)
[JD Vance pushes back on Social Security cuts – what you should know – March 13](#)
[Medicare spending on ASCs jumps 16% in 1 year: MedPAC – March 13](#)
[PRESS RELEASE: New CAP Report Warns Millions of Medicare Beneficiaries Are Being Locked Into Medicare Advantage by the "Medigap Trap" – March 13](#)
[The Medicare cost conundrum – March 13](#)
[CMS wants seniors to use AI for care navigation – March 13](#)
[Reading the Tea Leaves for Accountable Care's Future in Medicare – March 12](#)
[Medicare Advantage 'dark money' group tries to win higher payments for insurers – March 12](#)
[Social Security announces big change impacting millions – March 12](#)
[Opinion: Medicare Advantage is facing a reality check — and seniors are the ones who will pay for it – March 11](#)
[Aetna to pay \\$117.7M to settle Medicare Advantage upcoding allegations: DOJ – March 11](#)
[Alleged overpayments to Medicare Advantage plans cost seniors billions: Investigation – March 10](#)
[Whistleblower claims ex-DOGE member says he took Social Security data to new job – March 10](#)
[The Medicare change that could force seniors to choose between their health and their savings – March 9](#)
[Banned in 2026: The "healthy extras" Medicare Advantage is forcing members to drop – March 9](#)
[Social Security wait times have doubled — here's what to do before you call – March 9](#)
[Million-dollar earners have already stopped paying into Social Security for 2026 – March 9](#)
[Why More Americans Are Claiming Social Security Earlier — Even When It Pays Less – March 7](#)
[US government passes surprising tracking rule for millions of Social Security recipients. Will your movement be monitored? – March 7](#)
[Feeling frustrated with your Medicare Advantage plan? You're not alone – March 6](#)
[Medicare's Unrealized Opportunity: Using ACOs To Create Real Competition – March 6](#)
[These niche plans drove 83% of Medicare Advantage sign-ups in the past year – March 6](#)
[Social Security update: Agency issues new scam warnings – March 5](#)
[Medicare makes major change for Americans – March 4](#)
['We're running in when others are running out': Stability drives record growth for regional Medicare Advantage plans – March 3](#)
[Social Security shares update on disability claims backlog – March 3](#)
[Lawmakers introduce bill to reverse Medicaid cuts, expand Medicare benefits – March 2](#)
[US Medicare agency intends to suspend enrollment in Elevance's prescription drug plans – March 2](#)

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