



NRLN Review, Summary for September 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.

Article Provides Information on Medicare's Annual Open Enrollment Period

This article reports that Medicare's annual open enrollment period runs every year from October 15 through December 7. This limited seven-week window is your primary opportunity to review your current health and drug plans, compare new options available in your area and adjust your coverage for the coming calendar year. If you are going to consider a change to your Medicare supplement plan (Medigap), a Medicare Advantage plan and/or Medicare Part D prescription drug plan, the NRLN encourages you go to Medicare's "[Find health and drug plans](#)" to shop for the best deal you can get. Also, the State Health Insurance Assistance Program is available to provide assistance at: <https://www.shiphelp.org/>
[Your 2027 Medicare open enrollment guide: Essential dates and notices](#)

Kiplinger – September 25

Will Your Candidates for Congress Fund Social Security and Medicare?

This article reports on a Peterson Foundation survey that found more than 8 of 10 voters said they're more likely to support a candidate with a plan to prevent automatic Social Security benefit cuts over a candidate who promises not to touch Social Security (17%). "The voters who will determine the balance of the U. S. Senate are calling on candidates to strengthen the future of Social Security," said Michael Peterson, chief executive of the Peterson Foundation. "Senators elected this fall will be in office in 2032 when Social Security recipients will face immediate 22% cuts, so all candidates should be putting forth solutions in this campaign to prevent this catastrophic result." The NRLN urges its members to learn how their candidates for Congress in the November 3 mid-term election plan to support the funding for Social Security and Medicare.

[Social Security becomes an urgent issue for Americans this midterms season](#)

USA TODAY – September 16

Traditional Medicare Prior Authorization Trial Causing Treatment Delays

This article reports that the [traditional] Medicare pilot program that uses artificial intelligence to help review prior authorization requests has led to "lengthy treatment delays" and concerns about inadequate testing, according to newly released government records. The Wasteful and Inappropriate Service Reduction (WISeR) model launched in January and operates in six states [AZ, NJ, OH, OK, TX, WA] covering 13 medical services.

Providers must obtain authorization through technology platforms operated by private contractors that use AI tools to help evaluate requests. The NRLN has opposed the six-year trial program with Action Alerts to members of Congress.

[Medicare's AI prior authorization pilot is reportedly causing 'lengthy treatment delays' — one request went unanswered for 83 days, records show](#)

Benzinga – September 15

NRLN Opposes Increasing Full Retirement Age

This article reports that experts and lawmakers across the political spectrum say raising the full retirement age — the age when a person can claim their full Social Security benefits — may be one of the provisions in a package of changes to fix Social Security's current money problems. Increasing the age from [the current] 67 to 68 would close the deficit by 12%, while moving it up to 69 would take care of 17% of the funding deficit. Moving the full retirement age to 70 would close the gap by 22%. This is assuming policymakers implement the changes immediately, which would disrupt the plans of people nearing retirement. The NRLN opposes raising the retirement age because it reduces lifetime benefits. In addition, some older Americans may not be physically capable of working during their older years and/or employers may not be willing to continue their employment.

[Raising Social Security's full retirement age is political dynamite because it could make this group of people poorer](#)

MarketWatch – September 2

NRLN Legislative Committee

The Legislative Action Priorities Committee did not have a phone call in September to review bills in Congress because the U.S. House Representatives went into recess on September 16 until after the November midterm elections.

Key News Articles Posted in June

During September 72 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.

[10 things you should know about Medicare Part D plans](#) – September 30

[Type 2 Diabetes Doesn't Have to Be Your Future: Medicare Has a Benefit That Can Help](#) – September 30

[Pentagon data breach exposes Social Security numbers, personal info of 2.76M US military, civilian personnel](#) – September 30

[Medicare Advantage premiums expected to drop more than 16% in 2027, CMS projects](#) – September 29

[Is AI coming to the Medicare annual wellness visit?](#) – September 29

[At 69, She Tried to Leave Medicare Advantage. Her Cancer Had Been Gone Four Years. One Medigap Insurer Required Five](#) – September 29

[Retirees are on edge after what the Senate's top Republican just said about Social Security](#) –

September 28

[Medicare unveils 2027 rates for private Medicare, Part D plans](#) – September 28

[House Democrats want to rein in healthcare giants, expand Medicare: Report](#) – September 28

[Trump is spending \\$50 billion on rural health care – what retirees should know for Medicare open enrollment](#) – September 27

[Medicare shoppers face a hidden AI problem this open enrollment](#) – September 27

[Why more Americans are claiming Social Security early — even when benefits are lower](#) – September 26

[Your 2027 Medicare open enrollment guide: Essential dates and notices](#) – September 25

[Social Security scammers are using the 2027 COLA announcement to promise bigger checks](#) – September 25

[A quiet Social Security rule shift is catching retirees off guard](#) – September 25

[Your Medicare choice can determine your access to expert cancer care](#) – September 24

[One visit, two bills: How Medicare is quietly fleecing America's seniors](#) – September 24

[Social Security tax hike financially impossible for many, expert says](#) – September 23

[Elizabeth Warren calls for Social Security tax changes: 'We can protect Social Security if everyone paid their fair share'](#) – September 23

[The Republican Social Security bill that sounds like reform – Sanders says it could be a path to cuts](#) – September 23

[How to save on Medicare supplement plan premiums](#) – September 23

[MedPAC chair defends Medicare Advantage overpayment analysis at insurer lobby event](#) – September 23

[Oz: Medicare Advantage a garden 'vulnerable to weeds and overgrowth'](#) – September 23

[Claiming Social Security at 70 Instead of 67 Adds 24% to Every Check for Life](#) – September 22

[Social Security identity theft bill passes Congress, heads to Trump](#) – September 21

[The \\$1,890 Social Security Work Credit Rule Gets an Overhaul. Here's Who It Hits](#) – September 21

[Medicare Enrollment May Be AI's Next Major Test In Regulated Commerce](#) – September 22

[Medicare update: Beneficiaries just got new lab payment rates](#) – September 22

[On Medicare? Stay alert this fall.](#) – September 20

[These 2027 Social Security Changes May Surprise Retirees](#) – September 19

[Social Security at 62: Why Over a Quarter of Americans Claim Early and How It Reduces Benefits](#) – September 18

[CMS Expands Medicare Options for Heart Failure, Substance Use Disorder, & Other Common Ailments](#) – September 18

[Her PT Said Medicare Stops Paying When You Stop Improving. A Federal Court Forced CMS to Correct That Myth, and Some Clinics Still Use It](#) – September 18

[Americans are shooting themselves in the foot over Social Security](#) – September 17

[Federal watchdog accuses Humana, UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage plans of upcoding](#) – September 17

[Frustrated with your Medicare Advantage plan? You're not alone](#) – September 17

[Medicare subsidy scrapped by Trump would be saved under new bill](#) – September 17

[More Details Emerge About Changes In Medicare Plans And Policies](#) – September 17

[Social Security becomes an urgent issue for Americans this midterms season](#) – September 16

[Senior poverty rate just went up as they fear possible Social Security cuts](#) – September 16

[Medicare Advantage is making billions. Taxpayers deserve to know what they are buying](#) – September 16

[As MA Denial Rates Rise, Hospitals Are Betting on Traditional Medicare Instead](#) – September 16

[Report: Sen. Cassidy says time is short for Social Security](#) – September 15

[Trump administration finalizes 2.48% Medicare Advantage payment hike for 2027 – what to know](#) – September 15

[Medicare's AI prior authorization pilot is reportedly causing 'lengthy treatment delays' — one request went unanswered for 83 days, records show](#) – September 15

[Opinion: AARP doesn't want Social Security fixed — it wants you scared and donating](#) – September 14

[Medicare AI Program Results in 'Lengthy Treatment Delays'—New Data Shows](#) – September 14

[UnitedHealthcare and Humana slash Medicare Advantage benefits amid Trump-era payouts](#) – September 14

[Rural retirees are losing their Medicare Advantage plans faster than anyone else – here's why](#) – September 14

[Your Doctor "Takes Medicare." That Line Says Nothing About Whether He Takes the Advantage Plan You Pick in October.](#) – September 14

[Medicare update: Trump official says costs are going to increase—here's why](#) – September 11

[Social Security Warning: Advisers Sound Alarm on Potential Benefit Cuts](#) – September 11

[Social Security Update: Major Proposed Change Gets Boost Ahead of Midterms](#) – September 10

[Social Security Has Lost 14% of Its Buying Power Since 2016. That's About \\$290 a Month on Today's Average Check](#) – September 10

[Insurers are cutting Medicare Advantage in 2027: Steps to take if your provider exits](#) – September 10
[Medicare has a major gap all retirees should know about](#) – September 10
[There Is No Medicare Appeal When a Medigap Insurer Says No at 72. No Federal Form. No Hearing. Just the Next Company's Application.](#) - September 9
[Medicare open enrollment 2027: 8 things every senior should know before October 15](#) – September 9
[Many people get Medicare's long-term care coverage wrong, new survey finds](#) – September 9
[Social Security Update: Republicans Show Rare Support for Raising Taxes](#) – September 8
[Social Security's grim reality: The most popular solution, taxing the rich, won't fix the problem](#) – September 7
[Being Forced Out of a Medicare Advantage Plan Was a 1% Event for Years. In 2026 It Hit 10%. The 2027 Letters Must Arrive by October 2.](#) – September 6
[Seven in 10 People Turning 65 Will Need Long-Term Care. Most Families Learn Medicare Won't Pay for It in the Hospital Discharge Office](#) – September 5
[Democrats in talks about expanding Medicare, breaking up large insurers: Report](#) – September 4
[Social Security's last big fix fell apart 26 years early – here's the one thing the next fix has to get right](#) – September 4
[Check your mail: The one Medicare letter you shouldn't throw away](#) – September 3
[Medicare open enrollment 2027: 8 things every senior should know before October 15](#) – September 3
[Social Security overpayment notices—what to do if you get one you can't pay](#) – September 3
[How to use your HSA to pay Medicare premiums tax-free](#) – September 2
[Raising Social Security's full retirement age is political dynamite because it could make this group of people poorer](#) – September 2
[Social Security has a problem most retirees have never heard of](#) – September 2
[Medicare Advantage disenrollment jumps with each diagnosis](#) – September 1

About the NRLN

Based in Washington, D.C., the National Retiree Legislative Network (www.nrln.org) is the only nationwide organization solely dedicated to representing the interests of retirees and future retirees. Formed in 2002, the NRLN's endeavors to secure federal legislation to protect retirees' employer-sponsored pensions and benefits in addition to keeping Social Security and Medicare strong. The NRLN is a non-partisan, grassroots advocacy coalition of retiree associations, chapters and individual members from 300 corporations and public entities who live in all 50 states and practically all Congressional districts. The NRLN represents more than 2 million retired men and women seeking to preserve the retirement benefits they earned during their many years of employment.