



AT&T Ameritech /SBC Retirees – We are AASBCR®

Proudly working on behalf of the Bell System and successor companies of the New AT&T, located throughout the World

Legislative Ledger

August 2022, NO 003

Bulletins and the website are paid for by AASBCR® members. Please do not share with non-members. Instead encourage retiree friends to join and support AASBCR®.

Contact Your Legislators During the Month of August

Since the month of August offers us a great opportunity to meet and directly influence our legislators regarding issues that are important to us, our legislative partner, NRLN, has a few suggestions on how we can maximize that opportunity.

“NRLN August Town Hall Initiative

As usual, Congress takes the month of August off - vacationing, taking foreign trips, and campaigning. Often, they have town hall meetings or give speeches to groups in person or via phone conferences. You can put pressure on them regarding a few of our major current issues by participating. How? The easiest way is to call their local or DC offices and ask about your legislator’s schedule. These numbers can be found easily by going to our web site, Legislative Action Network, [Legislative Action Network – National Retiree Legislative Network \(nrln.org\)](http://www.nrln.org) picking your state, and then selecting the legislator you are interested in. When you access that website, you can also get a glimpse of what action that legislator is taking on all the bills the NRLN supports by scrolling down the page.

NRLN recommends that you ask them to vote for those bills (H.R. 2954 and S.1770) in congress (currently in reconciliation between the Senate and House Committees) that would strengthen Pension Law in all following ways:

1. Extend transfer provisions to fund other benefits, now set at 125%, for the next few years.
2. Reduce this threshold to 110%.
3. Stop companies that have made a mistake in a retiree’s pension from coming after them for paybacks after a reasonable period of 3 years from retirement (Recoupment limitations)
4. Require that an employee’s Pension Annual Funding Notice is regularly updated to be timelier and more accurate. It is now 15 months out of date and the percent-funded figures are often inflated with higher interest rates than the PBGC uses.

PO Box 110355 Cleveland OH 44111-0355 Phone/FAX (312) 962-2770 <http://aasbcr.org/>

This communication is Private and Confidential. It is intended only for viewing by AASBCR® Members. Copying or forwarding of this communication is not authorized by AASBCR®.



AT&T Ameritech /SBC Retirees – We are AASBCR®

Proudly working on behalf of the Bell System and successor companies of the New AT&T, located throughout the World

These are the immediate concerns we suggest you share with your legislators as we collectively try and influence the final version of a bill that both House's committees can agree on when congress comes back in Sept. Ask your legislators to support our recommended changes so that the bill will have the desired effect on Pension Law.

In addition, there are many other areas the NRLN is pushing for improvement in. One concerns Prescription Drugs. We advocate:

1. Having Medicare put drugs out for bid as the VA has been doing for over a decade.
2. Preventing deals between companies to delay the introduction of generic drugs.
3. Allowing drugs to be imported by individuals from safe source countries.

Quite possibly the Inflation Reduction Act bill currently awaiting a Senate vote, may address many of these concerns. Even if that bill does pass, we encourage you to continue to press for and support changes in the law that will make prescription drugs more affordable and accessible.

Alternatives: If there are no town hall meetings to participate in you can still influence your legislators by calling their offices and leaving a message or sending them an e-mail by clicking on the links provided above on their NRLN pages. Also, if you have a Facebook account you can leave them a message on these matters using the link provided or going in yourself. No matter which method you choose, please focus on the topics above.

If you wish to see how your congressperson is doing relative to the rest of the state's delegation, just go to [Legislative Action Network – National Retiree Legislative Network \(nrln.org\)](http://Legislative Action Network – National Retiree Legislative Network (nrln.org)) and select the your state from the map. Once you get to your state page you can download the State Report Card (Excel file) showing all congressmen, the bills the NRLN supports or opposes, and if they co-sponsor these bills.

Keep the heat on them (as if we needed more this summer). In closing we ask that you please consider participating in some fashion to support NRLN's activities. It would help in getting our job done, particularly on the current pension bills.

Bill Kadereit
NRLN President

Bob Martina
NRLN VP – Grassroots”

PO Box 110355 Cleveland OH 44111-0355 Phone/FAX (312) 962-2770 <http://aasbcr.org/>

This communication is Private and Confidential. It is intended only for viewing by AASBCR® Members. Copying or forwarding of this communication is not authorized by AASBCR®.