

Dear AASBCR member,

Below is an important action alert from our advocates at NRLN. It provides a very easy way to send an email to your Senator and Representative about two very important retiree issues. One bill would prevent the use of pre-existing conditions as a reason to deny coverage in MediGap plans, such as for those who want to move from Medicare Advantage to original Medicare or change MediGap plans. The other would end the 24-month waiting period for benefits for those with metastatic breast cancer, a disease that often results in death before the 24-month wait has been fulfilled. We urge you to use the simple links in the message below to send automatic emails to your Congresspersons.

Tom Gray
AASBCR Legislative VP



NRLN Action Alert
Two Medical Bills Should Be Passed

[Click here to tell your Representative to support two medical bills and tell your Senators to introduce companion bills.](#)

When Congress passed the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in March 2010, healthcare insurance companies could no longer deny Americans under age 65 insurance coverage due to a pre-existing condition. That protection was not extended in the ACA to seniors on Medicare.

The NRLN has lobbied for Medicare participants to have a similar protection that they could not be denied the purchase of a Medicare supplement plan (Medigap) due to pre-existing condition.

H.R.35, Close the Medigap Act of 2023 prohibits discriminatory pricing and coverage denials for patients seeking supplemental Medigap coverage. The bill expands "guaranteed issue rights" to require that a Medigap policy be offered to any eligible applicant without regard to health status.

The first thing I am asking you to do in this Action Alert is to urge your Representative to become a co-sponsor of **H.R.35, Close the Medigap Act of 2023**, if he or she is not already among the 43 co-sponsors.

The other bill to ask your Representative to co-sponsor, if not one of the 78 current co-sponsors, is **H.R.549, Metastatic Breast Cancer Access to Care Act**. This bill would eliminate the 5-month waiting period for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits and the subsequent 24-month waiting period for Medicare coverage for individuals with metastatic breast cancer. In 2022, it is estimated that 43,780 people died from breast cancer in the United States - 90% as a result of metastatic breast cancer. To save lives, it is urgent to waive both waiting periods to help individuals with late-stage cancer get the benefits they are eligible to receive.

When the NRLN issued an Action Alert on July 7, 2021, in support of **Metastatic Breast Cancer Access to Care Act** in the previous 117th Congress, it resulted in 3,686 letters being sent to Capitol Hill. I hope there will be even more letters sent this time on this very important issue.

Ask your Representative to urge the Chairs of the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce to bring **H.R. 35** to a vote. Also, encourage the Chair of Ways and Means to call for a vote on **H.R.549**.

The letters that I'm asking you to send to your two Senators makes the request that they introduce companion bills in the Senate to **H.R.35** and **H.R.549**.

Bill Kadereit, President
National Retiree Legislative Network

If the "[Click here](#)" in the first paragraph does not work for you follow these easy steps:

1. If you have a problem with the link above, then go to <https://www.nrln.org/action-alert/#/home/>. Click on the "TAKE ACTION" button below **Two Medical Bills Should Be Passed**. Next, enter your street address and zip code, and click "GO". It will present the sample letter for you to email to your Representative and Senators. If you have a problem with this link, go to www.nrln.org and click on "Action Alert" at the top of the right column on the NRLN website home page. When the Action Alert appears, click on the "TAKE ACTION" link. Enter your street address and zip and click "GO" and follow the steps to email the NRLN's sample letters.
2. When you have accessed the sample letter, to the left of the letters are windows to type in your contact information required by members of Congress so they know they are receiving an email from a constituent. If you have sent previous NRLN emails to your members of Congress, your contact information may be automatically displayed once you begin typing.
3. Add your personal comments to the letter.
4. Click on the "Preview" button and the letters addressed to your Representative and two Senators will appear. Their names will be automatically added in the letter's greeting. Check to make sure the letters appear correct and then click "Send".
5. If you receive a non-responsive or an evasive answer from your Representative and/or Senator to this Action Alert, don't hesitate to ask him/her to be more specific and address the issue in your email. Either do a "Respond" to his/her email or click here and scroll down to use the NRLN's Compose Your Own Message to reply to your member of Congress at <https://www.nrln.org/action-alert/#/home/>.