National Association of Retired & Veteran Railway Employees, Inc.

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May 5, 2005

Honorable Fortney H, "Pete" Stark
Member of Congress 13th CA
239 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D. C. – 20515

Honorable Sherrod Brown
Member of Congress 13th OH
2332 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D. C. – 20515

Re: The Medicare Early Access Act

Dear Congressmen:

The National Association of Retired and veteran Railway Employees, Inc. (NARVRE) is greatly concerned and excited about the above captioned legislation, which we understand is presently being considered for introduction in the Congress. We are informed similar legislation was introduced in the 108th Congress and was identified as H. R. 4357.

We understand the Medicare buy in will benefit persons between 55 and 65 yeas of age. Also the legislation will include a refundable, advanceable tax credit for 75% of the cost of coverage (pay only 25%). Also we understand Medicare buy in is available to those with employer provided benefits; early retiree can buy in with employer wrap.

Members of NARVRE will be greatly affected by such legislation and we are proud to join with other groups who no doubt will support this effort. Therefore please consider NARVRE and its membership across the country as a strong supporter of the legislation. We will await further information as the legislation is developed. We also will be happy to urge our membership to write in support of passage of the legislation.

With kindest regards, I remain,

Respectfully,

A.W. Westphal

August W. Westphal
National President

cc: National Officers
Tom Dwyer
File