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September 14, 2022

The Honorable Jacky Rosen  
United States Senate  
144 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Boozman  
United States Senate  
141 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Rosen and Boozman:

On behalf of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO), a membership organization of more than 4,000 hospice locations representing nearly 60,000 hospice professionals and hundreds of thousands of volunteers dedicated to caring for patients and families across the country, and the Hospice Action Network (HAN), its advocacy affiliate, I am writing to share our endorsement of the *Supporting Our Seniors Act*.

Every day, hospices around the country provide high value, quality of life care to individuals with serious or life-limiting illness, including many seniors. In 2019, more than half of Medicare decedents were enrolled in hospice care at the time of their death. The services provided to seniors in hospice and palliative care programs extend beyond just medical needs – they are tailored to the whole-person, ensuring that a patient’s social, emotional, and spiritual needs are met as well. Hospice and palliative care professionals provide pain and symptom management, assistance with advance care planning, spiritual care, care coordination, and caregiver support including respite care and bereavement. Therefore, we are pleased to support the *Supporting Our Seniors Act*, which will establish a committee charged with reviewing and reporting on long-term care issues for seniors and individuals with disabilities.

This legislation would build upon recommendations put forward by the Commission on Long Term Care in 2013, including the establishment of a national advisory committee to continue and expand upon their work. The 12-member commission includes subject matter experts in areas relevant to the care of seniors and individuals with disabilities, including palliative care explicitly. The commission will be charged with assessing and providing annual policy recommendations on issues including long-term care service delivery, financing options for long-term care, access to comprehensive care including hospice and palliative care, workforce adequacy, caregiving supports, reducing hospitalization costs through increased access to home-based services, and education among others.

Thank you for your commitment to this important issue. We look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure access to high quality hospice and palliative care for our nation’s seniors.

Sincerely,

Ben Marcantonio  
Chief Operating Officer and Interim Chief Executive Officer