



## Congressional Requests Overview

There is so much going on in hospice and palliative care policy, it can be a lot to remember! Keep this cheat-sheet handy to remind you of the legislative priorities.

MAIN PRIORITY LEGISLATION: This where you should spend 99% of your time.

1. Senate
  - a. **Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act (S. 2080) (aka PCHETA)**
    - i. A comprehensive, workforce funding and education bill to promote increased practitioner training and patient access to hospice and palliative care.
  - b. **Rural Access to Hospice Act (S. 1190)**
    - i. RAH would allow physicians at RHCs and FQHCs to get paid for providing services as a hospice attending physician, thus expanding access to hospice.
  - c. **Hospice Care Improvement Act (S. 2807)** (we like this one better than the House bill)
2. House
  - a. **Rural Access to Hospice Act (H.R. 2594)**
  - b. **Helping Our Senior Population in Comfort Environments (HOSPICE) Act (H.R. 5821)**
    - i. We have concerns with this one but are generally supportive. Our concerns revolve around implementing civil monetary penalties for survey deficiencies and increasing the surveys to every two-years for quality hospices.

Additional Supported Legislation (to be aware of): If you get asked about it, yes we are supportive, but don't feel like you need to focus heavily on these bills. The ones up top are more important.

1. Senate
  - a. **Provider Training in Palliative Care Act (S. 1921)**
    - i. Adding palliative care as an "eligible service" under the National Health Services Program.
2. House
  - a. **Creating Opportunities Now for Necessary and Effective Care Technologies for Health (CONNECT) Act (H.R. 4932)**
    - i. A provision of this bill would allow the use of telehealth for hospice recertification. There are some restrictions – there would still need to be a provider present with the patient for this process (such as an NP, Physician Assistant, etc. and others as authorized in the code).
  - b. **Strengthening Innovation in Medicare and Medicaid Act (H.R. 5741)**
    - i. This bill aims to increase transparency and accountability within the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI).