

(S. 2243) The Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act (PCHETA)



Lead Sponsors

Tammy Baldwin (D-WI); Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV)

Endorsements

PCHETA is endorsed by over 90 organizations, including:

Alzheimer's Association, American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Cancer Society – Cancer Action Network, American Heart Association, American Psychological Association, Catholic Health Association of the United States, Children's National Health System, National Alliance for Caregiving, National Association for Home Care and Hospice, National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization and Palliative Care Quality Collaborative

Background

Palliative care is a patient-centered, interdisciplinary team-based approach to serious illness care that includes symptom management and supports for both the patient and their loved ones, with a focus on at-home care, when possible. Patients typically receive palliative care through hospice, but palliative care can benefit anyone with a serious illness.

Palliative care and hospice improve patient and caregiver quality of life, while delivering significant cost savings.¹ Health systems are increasingly implementing these valuable care models in both inpatient and community settings.

The Problem

As the American population continues to age and the rates of serious illnesses rise, palliative care and hospice offer many benefits for the U.S. healthcare system. But as the need for palliative care professionals rises, there is an unprecedented shortage of hospice and palliative care providers. Estimates show that if this workforce crisis continues, **there will be only one palliative physician for every 26,000 seriously ill patients by 2030.**²

Hospice advocates and lawmakers must act **NOW** to protect access to high-quality providers who provide care that best reflects patients' **needs, values, and care preferences.**

The Solution

The Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act (PCHETA) (S. 2243) has long been a priority of the hospice and palliative care community and will bolster the palliative care and hospice workforce.

PCHETA's Keys to Success:

- **EDUCATION/TRAINING** – Establishes palliative care and hospice education programs to ensure we have the programs, curricula, and faculty to expand training as well as attract and retain the interdisciplinary providers of hospice and palliative care (physicians, nurses, physician assistants, social workers, chaplains, and others). Includes training to integrate hospice and palliative care into existing medical care; grants to train physicians to teach or practice palliative care; promotion of incentives = to sustain and retain a hospice and palliative care workforce.
- **AWARENESS** – Establishes a national campaign to inform patients, families, and health professionals about the services and benefits of palliative care that are available to patients with serious or life-threatening illnesses.
- **RESEARCH** – Directs the National Institutes of Health to use existing authorities and funds to expand palliative care research to advance clinical practice and improve care delivery.

PCHETA is a critical bill for patients with serious and life-threatening illness, their families, and the healthcare system. It will develop the palliative care and hospice workforce of tomorrow, providing =the serious-illness and end-of-life care that Americans deserve.

For more information, contact Logan Hoover,
Executive Director of HAN, at lhoover@nhpco.org.

1 NORC at The University Of Chicago. Value of Hospice in Medicare. March 2023. Access: www.nhpco.org/Wp-Content/Uploads/Value_hospice_in_medicare.pdf.

2 AAHPM. "PDF." American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine, 2018: <http://aahtm.org/uploads/advocacy/AAHPM%20Workforce%20Flyer%20-%202018.pdf>