



**Hospice  
Action  
Network**

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## WHO WE ARE

The National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) is the largest membership organization representing hospice and palliative care programs and professionals in the United States. We represent over 4,000 hospice programs that care for the majority of hospice patients in the US. NHPCO is committed to improving end-of-life care and expanding access to hospice so that individuals and families facing serious illness, death, and grief will experience the best care that humankind can offer.

## The Patient Choice & Quality Care Act of 2017

### Background

Americans with serious and advanced illness face a complicated and fragmented health care delivery system that increases their risk for repeat hospitalizations, adverse drug reactions, unnecessary emergency room visits, and conflicting, uncoordinated care. Too often, individuals with advanced illness do not understand the conditions they face or their treatment options. Additionally, they often do not receive the information or support they need to evaluate treatment options in light of their personal values goals of care and to document treatment plans in a manner that allows providers and facilities to follow the patient's treatment plans.

### The Patient Choice & Quality Care Act of 2017

Congressmen Phil Roe (R-TN) and Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) and Senators Mark Warner (D-VA) and Johnny Isakson (R-GA) introduced the *Patient Choice & Quality Care* (H.R. 2797/S. 1334), which will give patients and families living with advanced and life-limiting illnesses knowledge and access to the kind of information and services they need. This bipartisan legislation directs the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation to conduct an Advanced Illness Coordination Services demonstration. This demonstration will allow an interdisciplinary team to provide early palliative care and wrap-around, home-based services to individuals with multiple and complex chronic conditions.

This program also includes at least one face-to-face encounter with a patient, family caregiver, or legal guardian, to discuss the patient's typical illness trajectory, help the individual define and articulate goals of care and care preferences, and treatment options.

The *Patient Choice & Quality Care Act* also supports advance care planning.

- It will add information on care planning and documentation options to the *Medicare & You Handbook*.
- It will strengthen advance directive portability. If an advance directive is legally executed in one state, a provider in another state should treat the order as if it was executed in the state where it is presented.
- It directs the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to award grants for the development of online training modules, decision support tools, and instructional materials for individuals, family caregivers, and healthcare providers.

For more information on the *Patient Choice & Quality Act*, contact Sharon Pearce at [spearce@nhpc.org](mailto:spearce@nhpc.org).