

July 16, 2025

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
141 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
170 Russell Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Buddy Carter
2432 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ami Bera
172 Cannon House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for S. 2287 & H.R. 4425 the Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act (PCHETA)

Dear Senators Baldwin and Capito and Representatives Carter and Bera:

The undersigned organizations write to express our support for the Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act (PCHETA), S. 2287 & H.R. 4425. This bipartisan legislation will make a difference in the lives of millions of patients living with serious or life-threatening illness and their caregivers.

Despite a high intensity of medical treatment, many seriously ill individuals still experience troubling symptoms, unmet psychological and personal care needs, fragmented care, poor communication with their health care providers, and enormous strains on their family caregivers. However, numerous studies have shown that adding palliative care can improve pain and symptom control, quality of life, and patient and family satisfaction.

Palliative care is an interdisciplinary model of care focused on relief of pain, stress and other debilitating symptoms of serious illness, such as cancer, cardiac disease, respiratory disease, kidney failure, Alzheimer's, AIDS, ALS, and MS. Its goal is to relieve suffering and provide the best possible quality of life for patients and their families. Palliative care can be offered simultaneously with life-prolonging and curative therapies for persons living with serious, complex, and eventually terminal illness and includes hospice care. By its very nature, palliative care is patient-centered care — translating patient goals to appropriate treatments.

We appreciate your leadership in recognizing the significant role palliative care and hospice can play in creating lasting change across the health care system. With PCHETA's focus on expanding the interdisciplinary palliative care workforce, promoting awareness of the benefits of palliative care among patients and providers, and improving the evidence base for this care, you have demonstrated a strong commitment to addressing key barriers to palliative care access for the growing number of Americans with serious or life-threatening illness.

Delivery of high-quality palliative care cannot take place without sufficient numbers of health care professionals with appropriate training and skills. Students graduating from medical, nursing or health care professional schools today have very little, if any, training in the core precepts of pain and symptom management, advance care planning, communication skills, and care coordination for patients with serious or life-threatening illness. Further, there is a large gap between the number of health care professionals with palliative care training and the number required to meet the needs of the expanding population of seriously ill patients. PCHETA would go a long way towards bridging this gap by establishing education centers and career incentive awards to improve the training of doctors, nurses, physician assistants, social workers and other health professionals in palliative care.

PCHETA also aims to strengthen clinical practice and improve health care delivery for patients living with serious or life-threatening illness, as well as their families, by directing funding toward palliative care research. Research funding for palliative care and pain and symptom management comprises one percent of the National Institutes of Health annual budget. PCHETA would direct an expansion and intensification of research in these important areas.

At the same time, more must be done to ensure patients and providers are aware of the benefits of palliative care. According to the Institute of Medicine, there is a “need for better understanding of the role of palliative care among both the public and professionals across the continuum of care.” PCHETA would direct the implementation of a national education and awareness campaign so that patients, families, and health professionals understand the essential role of palliative care in ensuring high-quality care for individuals facing serious or life-threatening illness.

We appreciate your continued leadership on this important issue and look forward to working with you to advance S. 2287 & H.R. 4425 in the 119th Congress.

Sincerely,

Alzheimer’s Association
Alzheimer’s Disease Resource Center
Alzheimer’s Impact Movement
American Academy of Hospice and Palliative
Medicine
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Academy of Physician Associates
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American College of Surgeons
American Geriatrics Society
American Heart Association
American Psychological Association
American Psychosocial Oncology Society
The American Society of Pediatric
Hematology/Oncology
Association for Clinical Oncology
Association of Oncology Social Work
Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses
Association of Professional Chaplains
The California State University Shiley Haynes Institute
for Palliative Care
Cambia Health Solutions
Cancer Support Community
CaringKind
Catholic Health Association of the United States
Center to Advance Palliative Care
Children’s National Health System
Coalition for Compassionate Care of California
Colorectal Cancer Alliance
Courageous Parents Network
The George Washington Institute for Spirituality and
Health

GO₂ for Lung Cancer
The HAP Foundation
HealthCare Chaplaincy Network
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association
LEAD Coalition
LeadingAge
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
Motion Picture & Television Fund
National Alliance for Care at Home
National Alliance for Caregiving
National Brain Tumor Society
National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship
National Coalition for Hospice and Palliative Care
National Comprehensive Cancer Network
National Marrow Donor Program
National Palliative Care Research Center
National Partnership for Healthcare and Hospice
Innovation
National Patient Advocate Foundation
National POLST Paradigm
Oncology Nursing Society
Pediatric Palliative Care Coalition
PAs in Hospice and Palliative Medicine
Prevent Cancer Foundation
Second Wind Dreams
Social Work Hospice & Palliative Care Network
Society of Pain and Palliative Care Pharmacists
St. Baldrick’s Foundation
Supportive Care Matters
Susan G. Komen
Trinity Health
West Health Institute

State Associations Supporting PCHETA

The Alliance for the Advancement of End-of-Life Care
Alzheimer's Los Angeles, Alzheimer's Orange County
Association for Home & Hospice Care of North
Carolina
Arizona Association for Home Care
Arizona Hospice & Palliative Care Organization
California Association for Health Services at Home
The Center for Optimal Aging at Marymount
University
Children's Hospice and Palliative Care Coalition
Delaware Association for Home & Community Care
Florida Hospice & Palliative Care Association
Georgia Association for Home Health Agencies
Georgia Hospice and Palliative Care Organization
Granite State Home Health & Hospice Association
(NH)
Healthcare Association of Hawaii
Home Care Association of Florida
Home Care Association of NYS
Home Care Association of Washington
Home Care and Hospice Association of Colorado
Homecare and Hospice Association of Utah
Hospice and Palliative Care Association of Iowa
Hospice and Palliative Care Association of New York
Hospice Care and Kentucky Home Care Association
Hospice Council of West Virginia
Hospice & Palliative Care Federation of
Massachusetts
Idaho Health Care Association
Illinois Hospice and Palliative Care Organization
Indiana Association for Home
Kokua Mau

LeadingAge California
LeadingAge Georgia
LeadingAge New Jersey/Delaware
LeadingAge Ohio
LifeCircle-South Dakota's Hospice and Palliative Care
Network
Louisiana Mississippi Hospice and Palliative Care
Organization
Maryland-National Capital Homecare Association
Michigan HomeCare and Hospice Association
Minnesota Network of Hospice and Palliative Care
Missouri Alliance for Home Care
Missouri Hospice & Palliative Care Association
Nebraska Association for Home Healthcare and
Hospice
Nebraska Home Care Association
Ohio Council for Home Care & Hospice
Ohio Health Care Association
Oklahoma Association for Home Care and Hospice
The Oregon Hospice & Palliative Care Association
South Carolina Home Care & Hospice Association
Texas Association for Home Care & Hospice
Texas ~ New Mexico Hospice and Palliative Care
Organization
Virginia Association for Home Care and Hospice
VNAs of Vermont
The Washington State Hospice and Palliative Care
Organization
West Virginia Council for Home Care and Hospice
Wisconsin Association for Home Health Care
Wisconsin Hospice and Palliative Care Association