



Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act (*PCHETA*) S. 2287/H.R. 4425

Request

ONS urges Senators and Representatives to cosponsor and support passage of S. 2287/H.R. 4425, the *Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act (PCHETA)*. S. 2287 was introduced by Sens. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Shelly Moore Capito (R-WV) and H.R. 4425 was introduced by Reps. Buddy Carter (R-GA-01) and Ami Bera, MD (D-CA-06). The legislation passed the House of Representatives in both the 116th and 115th Congresses.

Background

Palliative care is integral to oncology and should be offered at the time of a cancer diagnosis to alleviate physical, psychological, social, and spiritual pain and suffering, regardless of whether cure is an option. Oncology nurses stand at the front lines of cancer care, and ONS urges Congress to recognize the importance of better treatment and quality of life options for patients with serious illnesses and to address a training gap that exists in healthcare related to the specialty of palliative care and hospice. As both oncology nurses and the medical literature can attest to, a proactive and integrated approach to palliative care, which incorporates a team of health care providers, will improve quality of life and help patients avoid costly and unnecessary emergency department visits, hospitalization, re-hospitalization, and other medical treatments.

Bill Summary

Education, Training, & Workforce Development:

- **Education Centers:** Establishes Palliative Care and Hospice Education Centers to improve the training of interdisciplinary health professionals in palliative care and hospice; develop and disseminate curricula relating to palliative care and hospice; support the training and retraining of faculty; support continuing education; provide students with clinical training in appropriate sites of care; and provide traineeships for advanced practice nurses.
- **Nurse Training:** Creates special preferences in existing nurse education law for hospice and palliative nursing, in education, practice, and quality grants, workforce development, and nurse retention projects.
- **Workforce Development:** Establishes fellowship programs within the new Palliative Care and Hospice Education Centers to provide short-term intensive courses focused on palliative care.
- **Career Incentive Awards:** Provides grants or contracts to eligible health professionals who agree to teach or practice in the field of palliative care for at least five years.

Awareness: Provides for the establishment of a national campaign to inform patients, families, and health professionals about the benefits of palliative care, hospice, and the services that are available to support patients with serious or life-threatening illnesses. Directs the dissemination of information, resources, and materials about palliative care and hospice services to health professionals and the public in a variety of formats, in consultation with professional and patient stakeholders.

Research: Directs the National Institutes of Health to use existing authorities and funds to expand palliative care and hospice research to advance clinical practice and improve care delivery for patients with serious or life-threatening illnesses.

Contact

For additional information or to co-sponsor S. 2287, please contact Kiley_Mulligan@baldwin.senate.gov (Sen. Baldwin) or Dana_Richter@capito.senate.gov (Sen. Capito). To cosponsor H.R. 4425, please contact Jack.Ganter@mail.house.gov (Rep. Carter) or Asha.Samuel@mail.house.gov (Rep. Bera). For more information from the Oncology Nursing Society, please contact healthpolicy@ons.org.