



THE PALLIATIVE CARE AND HOSPICE EDUCATION AND TRAINING ACT (PCHETA) (H.R. 1676/S. 693)

BACKGROUND: Palliative care improves quality of life, enhances patient and family satisfaction with care, and controls costs for the rapidly expanding population of individuals with serious illness or multiple chronic conditions. In 2000, less than 25% of U.S. hospitals had a palliative care program, compared with 75% in 2015. Yet, not all these programs have in place the interdisciplinary team necessary to provide comprehensive, high-quality palliative care. At the same time, palliative care is increasingly being provided in community settings. This growth comes in response to the increasing numbers and needs of Americans living with serious or complex chronic illnesses and the realities of the care responsibilities faced by their families. Palliative care is a relatively new medical specialty, and more must be done to ensure patients and providers understand its benefits and that an adequate, appropriately trained workforce is available to provide the pain and symptom management, intensive communication and level of care coordination that addresses the episodic and long-term nature of serious and complex chronic illness.

PCHETA would:

- **Education Centers:** establish Palliative Care and Hospice Education Centers to improve the training of interdisciplinary health professionals in palliative care.
- **Physician Training:** authorize grants or contracts to schools of medicine, teaching hospitals and graduate medical education programs to train physicians (including residents, trainees, and fellows) who plan to teach palliative medicine.
- **Academic Career Awards:** establish a program to promote the career development of physicians who are board certified or board eligible in Hospice and Palliative Medicine and have a junior (non-tenured) faculty appointment at an accredited school of medicine.
- **Workforce Development:** establish fellowship programs within the new Palliative Care and Hospice Education Centers to provide short-term intensive courses focused on palliative care.
- **Career Incentive Awards:** provide grants or contracts for eligible health professionals who agree to teach or practice in the field of palliative care for at least 5 years.
- **Nurse Training:** create special preferences in existing nurse education law for hospice and palliative nursing, in education, practice and quality grants, workforce development, and nurse retention projects.
- **Palliative care education and awareness:** provide for the establishment of a national campaign to inform patients, families, and health professionals about the benefits of palliative care and the services that are available to support patients with serious or life-threatening illness.

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

Request: Please cosponsor H.R. 1676 or S. 693 to strengthen research, workforce, and public awareness around palliative care.

For more information on the bill or to sign on as a cosponsor, please contact Catherine Rowland in Representative Eliot Engel's office at Catherine.Rowland@mail.house.gov, Drew Wayne in Representative Tom Reed's office at Drew.Wayne@mail.house.gov or Olivia Dickey in Representative Earl "Buddy" Carter's office at Olivia.Dickey@mail.house.gov. In the Senate, please contact Kathleen Laird in Senator Tammy Baldwin's office at Kathleen_Laird@baldwin.senate.gov or Dana Richter in Senator Shelley Capito's office at Dana_richter@capito.senate.gov.