



# Patient Centered Quality Care for Life Act

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## H.R. 1666 / S. 2800

*From 113<sup>th</sup> Congress*

**Sponsors:** Representative Emanuel Cleaver (D-MO-5), Representative Spencer Bachus (R-AL-6)  
& Senator Mark Begich (D-AK)

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### **Palliative Care Helps Patient and Families Facing Serious or Chronic Illness**

Palliative care provides patients with relief from the symptoms, pain, and stress of a serious illness. The goal is to improve quality of life for both the patient and the family. Palliative care is given by a team of physicians, nurses, social workers, chaplains, and other specialists to provide an extra layer of support. Palliative care is appropriate at any age and at any stage in a serious illness and can be provided along with curative treatment.

Peer-reviewed scientific studies have shown that for patients with chronic illness, palliative care leads to better quality care, can prolong survival, and can decrease health system costs through the reduction of unnecessary emergency room and ICU use and hospital readmissions.

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### **H.R. 1666 Would Expand Access to Palliative Care for Seriously Ill Patients**

**This legislation puts in place the building blocks of a national effort to de-fragment patient care by treating pain and other symptoms of chronic disease, leading to increased patient satisfaction and quality of life.**

**Focused National Attention:** Directs HHS to convene a national summit to analyze key barriers to managing care for the expanding population of patients with serious, complex, and chronic illness. Key stakeholders will examine the role of health professionals, health IT, research, and coordinated care, including palliative care and care planning, and report to the appropriate congressional committees with recommendations for improved coordinated care for individuals with serious illness.

**Public Awareness:** Directs CDC to establish an initiative in partnership with the states, medical schools, physician practices, and other eligible health care entities to enhance public awareness of and demand for integrated patient-centered care for managing pain and symptoms of treatment and improving patient quality of life. Specific local programs would focus on patient navigation, patient and family consultation, data collection, and other means of increasing public awareness of palliative care and coordinated patient care.

**Professional Workforce Training:** Establishes a HRSA workforce initiative to train health professionals, including physicians, nurses, social workers, and chaplains, to improve symptom assessment and management, communication skills, and coordinated patient-centered care for the highest risk and most complex patients.

**Research:** Directs NIH to expand research into symptom management and palliative and survivorship care for the purpose of improving the quality of care for patients with one or more serious and/or chronic illness while seeking ways to reduce the cost of care and treatment.

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*As of December 31, 2014*

# Patient Centered Quality Care for Life Act (S. 2800)

**Sponsors: Senator Mark Begich (D-AK)**

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*As of December 31, 2014*