



Talking Points: Quality of Life, Palliative Care & PCHETA

- Patients with serious illness often times deal with pain, stress and other symptoms of treatment. Often times there is poor coordination between the many doctors, nurses and other professionals who care for them.
- When patients receive coordinated care – an entire team of medical professionals and other professionals work together to help a patient -- it improves their treatment and quality of life. Palliative care, which includes coordinated care, is appropriate at any age and during any stage of a serious illness.
- Palliative care is specialized medical care for people with serious illness, and is focused on providing patients with relief from pain, stress and other symptoms that result from serious illness. It can lead to a more efficient health care system by decreasing costs without reducing the services patients receive.
- H.R. 3119 and S. 2748, the Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act would make necessary policy changes that would provide patients with serious illness greater access to palliative care services.
- The legislation would expand the availability of these services to patients by educating the public and providers about palliative care, expand the federal research investment in palliative care, as well as expand workforce training and development opportunities to increase the number of doctors, nurses, social workers and other health professionals trained in palliative care.