QUICK FACTS:
General Palliative Care
&
Palliative Care and Hospice Education & Training Act

- Palliative care is medical care for people with serious or chronic illnesses.
- Palliative care is team-based and focuses on, among other things, pain management, symptom management, nutrition, social services, spiritual needs, and psychological support.
- Palliative care is appropriate at any age or stage of a serious illness—it can be provided alongside curative treatment.
- Palliative care is the fastest-growing medical specialty in the U.S. Almost 90 percent of large hospitals have a palliative care program.
- Palliative care produces significant improvements in clinical outcomes – patients and family caregivers feel supported and more satisfied with the care they receive.
- Patients need greater access to palliative care services – approximately 90 million Americans are living with a serious illness, and this number is expected to double in the next 25 years.
- Almost 20 percent of all Medicare beneficiaries have five or more chronic conditions, and two-thirds of Medicare spending goes to cover their care.
- A recent study found that palliative care consultations led to a reduction in hospital costs of almost $1,700 for patients who survived, and almost $5,000 for patients who died (CAPC). [1]

House bill: H.R. 3119, Sponsored by Congressman Elliott Engel (D-NY) and Tom Reed, (R-NY)

99 bi-partisan cosponsors

Senate bill: S. 2748, Sponsored by Senator Tammy Baldwin

2 bi-partisan cosponsors (introduced 4/05/16)

H.R. 3119 / S. 2748, the Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act (PCHETA) would:

- Establish Palliative Care and Hospice Education Centers
- Establish fellowship programs to provide short-term intensive courses focused on palliative care
- Create special preferences in nurse education law for hospice and palliative nursing
- Establish a national campaign to inform patients about the benefits of palliative care
- Direct the NIH to expand research in palliative care

[1] Morrison, R. Sean; Meier, Diane E. America's Care of Serious Illness: 2015 State-by-State Report Cards on Access to Palliative Care in our Nation's Hospitals. Center to Advance Palliative Care. 2015.