

July 11, 2023

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
141 Hart Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
172 Russell Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

**RE: Support for S. 2243 the Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act (PCHETA)**

Dear Senators Baldwin and Capito:

The undersigned organizations write to express our support for the Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act (PCHETA), S. 2243. This bipartisan legislation will make a difference in the lives of millions of patients living with serious or life-threatening illness and their caregivers.

Despite a high intensity of medical treatment, many seriously ill individuals still experience troubling symptoms, unmet psychological and personal care needs, fragmented care, poor communication with their health care providers, and enormous strains on their family caregivers. However, numerous studies have shown that adding palliative care can improve pain and symptom control, quality of life, and patient and family satisfaction.

Palliative care is an interdisciplinary model of care focused on relief of the pain, stress and other debilitating symptoms of serious illness, such as cancer, cardiac disease, respiratory disease, kidney failure, Alzheimer's, AIDS, ALS, and MS. Its goal is to relieve suffering and provide the best possible quality of life for patients and their families. Palliative care can be offered simultaneously with life-prolonging and curative therapies for persons living with serious, complex, and eventually terminal illness and includes hospice care. By its very nature, palliative care is patient-centered care — translating patient goals to appropriate treatments.

We appreciate your leadership in recognizing the significant role palliative care and hospice can play in creating lasting change across the health care system. With PCHETA's focus on expanding the interdisciplinary palliative care workforce, promoting awareness of the benefits of palliative care among patients and providers, and improving the evidence base for this care, you have demonstrated a strong commitment to addressing key barriers to palliative care access for the growing number of Americans with serious or life-threatening illness.

Delivery of high-quality palliative care cannot take place without sufficient numbers of health care professionals with appropriate training and skills. Students graduating from medical, nursing or health care professional schools today have very little, if any, training in the core precepts of pain and symptom management, advance care planning, communication skills, and care coordination for patients with serious or life-threatening illness. Further, there is a large gap between the number of health care professionals with palliative care training and the number required to meet the needs of the expanding population of seriously ill patients. PCHETA would go a long way towards bridging this gap by establishing education centers and career incentive awards to improve the training of doctors, nurses, physician assistants, social workers and other health professionals in palliative care.

PCHETA also aims to strengthen clinical practice and improve health care delivery for patients living with serious or life-threatening illness, as well as their families, by directing funding toward palliative care research. Research funding for palliative care and pain and symptom management comprises less than 0.1 percent of the National Institutes of Health annual budget. PCHETA would direct an expansion and intensification of research in these important areas.

At the same time, more must be done to ensure patients and providers are aware of the benefits of palliative care. According to the Institute of Medicine, there is a "need for better understanding of the role of palliative care among both the public and professionals across the continuum of care." PCHETA would direct the implementation of a national education and awareness campaign so that patients, families, and

health professionals understand the essential role of palliative care in ensuring high-quality care for individuals facing serious or life-threatening illness.

We appreciate your continued leadership on this important issue and look forward to working with you to advance S. 2243 in the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Sincerely,

Alzheimer's Association  
Alzheimer's Impact Movement  
American Academy of Hospice and Palliative  
Medicine  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Academy of PAs  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
American College of Surgeons  
American Geriatrics Society  
American Heart Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Psychosocial Oncology Society  
Association for Clinical Oncology  
Association of Oncology Social Work  
Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology  
Nurses  
Association of Professional Chaplains  
The California State University Shiley Haynes  
Institute for Palliative Care  
Cambia Health Solutions  
Cancer Support Community  
CaringKind  
Catholic Health Association of the United States  
Center to Advance Palliative Care  
Children's National Health System  
Coalition for Compassionate Care of California  
Colorectal Cancer Alliance  
Compassus  
Courageous Parents Network  
The George Washington Institute for Spirituality  
and Health  
GO<sub>2</sub> for Lung Cancer  
HealthCare Chaplaincy Network

Hospice Action Network  
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association  
LeadingAge  
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
Motion Picture & Television Fund  
National Alliance for Caregiving  
National Association for Home Care & Hospice  
National Brain Tumor Society  
National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship  
National Coalition for Hospice and Palliative Care  
National Comprehensive Cancer Network  
National Hospice and Palliative Care  
Organization  
National Palliative Care Research Center  
National Partnership for Healthcare and Hospice  
Innovation  
National Patient Advocate Foundation  
National POLST Paradigm  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Palliative Care Quality Collaborative  
Pediatric Palliative Care Coalition  
PAs in Hospice and Palliative Medicine  
Prevent Cancer Foundation  
ResolutionCare, a Vynca company  
Social Work Hospice & Palliative Care Network  
Society of Pain and Palliative Care Pharmacists  
St. Baldrick's Foundation  
Supportive Care Matters  
Susan G. Komen  
Trinity Health  
West Health Institute

**State Associations Supporting PCHETA**

Arizona Association for Home Care  
Arizona Hospice & Palliative Care Organization  
Association for Home & Hospice Care of North Carolina  
California Hospice and Palliative Care Association (CHAPCA)  
California Association for Health Services at Home  
The Connecticut Association for Healthcare at Home  
The Home Care Alliance of Massachusetts  
Granite State Home Health & Hospice Association (NH)  
Home Care and Hospice Association of Colorado  
Home Care Association of Florida  
HomeCare Association of Louisiana  
Home Care Association of New York State  
Home Care Association of Washington  
Home Care & Hospice Alliance of Maine  
Home Care & Hospice Association of New Jersey  
Homecare & Hospice Association of Utah  
Illinois HomeCare & Hospice Council  
Indiana Association for Home and Hospice Care  
Kentucky Home Care Association  
LeadingAge Ohio  
Maryland-National Capital Homecare Association  
Michigan HomeCare and Hospice Association  
Minnesota Home Care Association  
Missouri Alliance for Home Care  
Nebraska Association for Home Healthcare and Hospice  
New Mexico Association for Home & Hospice Care  
Ohio Council for Home Care & Hospice  
Oregon Association for Home Care  
Pennsylvania Homecare Association  
South Carolina Home Care & Hospice Association  
Tennessee Association for Home Care  
Texas Association for Home Care & Hospice  
The Virginia Association for Home Care and Hospice  
Wisconsin Association for Home Health Care  
Wisconsin Hospice and Palliative Care Association