



The Palliative Care & Hospice Education & Training Act (PCHETA) H.R. 647/S. 2080

Request

ONS urges Representatives to cosponsor and support passage of H.R. 647/S. 2080, the Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act (PCHETA). H.R. 647 was introduced by Reps. Elliot Engel (D-NY), Tom Reed (R-NY), Yvette Clarke (D-NY), Buddy Carter (R-GA), Frank Pallone (D-NJ), and Greg Walden (R-OR). S. 2080 was introduced by Sens. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Shelly Moore Capito (R-WV).

Background

Palliative care is integral to oncology and should be offered at the time of a cancer diagnosis to alleviate physical, psychological, social, and spiritual pain and suffering, regardless of whether cure is an option. Oncology nurses stand at the front lines of cancer care, and ONS urges Congress to recognize the importance of better treatment and quality of life options for patients with serious illness and to address a training gap that exists in the field of palliative care. As both the medical literature and oncology nurses can attest to, a proactive and integrated approach to palliative care, which incorporates a team of health care providers, will improve quality of life and help patients avoid costly and unnecessary emergency department visits, hospitalization, re-hospitalization, and other medical treatments.

Bill Summary

EDUCATION, TRAINING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- **Education Centers:** Establishes up to 24 Palliative Care and Hospice Education Centers to improve palliative care and hospice training for nurses and other health professionals; develop and disseminate curricula; train and retrain faculty; support continuing education; provide students with clinical training in appropriate sites of care; and provide traineeships for advanced education nursing degrees in palliative care nursing, home care, hospice, long-term care, and other areas.
- **Faculty Fellowships:** Authorizes funding for fellowship programs based on a “train the trainer” model to provide short-term intensive palliative care courses for faculty in nursing schools, as well as other health professional schools.
- **Career Incentive Awards:** Provides grants or contracts for advanced practice nurses who agree to teach or practice in the field of palliative care for at least five years.
- **Nurse Education Act (Title VIII) Amendments:** Strengthens nursing workforce development programs by including hospice and palliative nursing as a practice priority.

AWARENESS: Provides for the development and dissemination of information for patients, families, and health professionals about the benefits of palliative care and available support services.

RESEARCH: Directs the National Institutes of Health (NIH), using existing authorities and funds, to develop a research strategy to expand national research programs in palliative care.

Contact

For additional information or to sign on as a co-sponsor of H.R. 647, please contact S.Chaudhary@mail.house.gov (Rep. Engel) or Logan.Hoover@mail.house.gov (Rep. Reed). For additional information or to sign on as a co-sponsor of S. 2080, please contact Kathleen.Laird@baldwin.senate.gov (Sen. Baldwin) or Dana.Richter@capito.senate.gov (Sen. Capito).

For more information, please contact Alec Stone, Director of Public Affairs at astone@ons.org.