



CONGRESS NOW ISN'T THE TIME TO TURN YOUR BACK ON HOSPICE

Congress, dying Americans are asking you to consider their health care needs. The high-quality, compassionate end-of-life care they depend upon is threatened by not one, but two devastating rate cuts. Already bracing for a 3 percent regulatory rate cut, hospice now faces additional cuts as part of health care reform. These new reductions would slash rates by a damaging 11.8 percent. Combined, the impact of these two cuts would mean an astounding 14.3 percent loss to hospice. Programs will go broke, doors will close, and Americans will be left without the option of having hospice at home.

Yet, hospice is health care that is working for America. In 2007, an independent study by Duke University found that hospice reduced Medicare costs by more than \$2 billion per year. More than 1.4 million patients with a life-limiting illness received services from the nation's hospice providers in 2008.

Two cuts are too much for hospice. Don't cut hospice programs beyond their already narrow 3.4 percent margins. Congress, now is not the time to turn your back on dying Americans and their families.

TWO CUTS ARE TOO MUCH PROTECT HOSPICE FOR AMERICA



The Alliance for Care
at the End of Life

For more information, visit www.nhpco.org/advocacy