



The National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) is the largest nonprofit membership organization representing hospice and palliative care programs and professionals in the United States. We represent nearly 4,000 hospice programs that care for the vast majority of hospice patients in the US. NHPCO is committed to improving end-of-life care and expanding access to hospice care with the goal of profoundly enhancing quality of life for people dying in America and their loved ones.

The Hospice Action Network, an NHPCO affiliate and national hospice advocacy organization, is dedicated to preserving and expanding access to hospice care in America. Our mission is to advocate, with one voice, for policies that ensure the best care for patients and families facing the end of life.

We fight to ensure compassionate, high-quality care for all Americans facing a life-limiting illness by:

- Expanding an ongoing and influential presence on Capitol Hill
- Mobilizing a growing network of Hospice Advocates throughout the nation
- Empowering, through new and innovative techniques, an interactive community connecting the public with Hospice Advocacy

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HOSPICE IS A PROGRAM THAT WORKS AND A MEDICARE BENEFIT THAT MATTERS.

Hospice is a person-centered model that works to meet the unique care needs of patients and families facing serious illness at the end of life.

Changes to the Medicare Hospice Benefit should remove burdensome regulations that compromise patient care while implementing common-sense reforms that promote value and quality, patient choice and access, and provider accountability.

The value-based model of person-centered care pioneered by hospice and expanded by palliative care should be adopted throughout the care continuum.

NHPCO LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR THE 116TH CONGRESS

STRUCTURAL REFORM OF THE MEDICARE HOSPICE BENEFIT

NHPCO supports reforms that improve access and care for patients and families, including allowing hospice patients to access concurrent curative care, improving upstream access to palliative care, reforming the six-month prognosis barrier, and reducing regulatory hurdles that unnecessarily limit access to hospice services at the end of life.

COVERAGE FOR COMMUNITY-BASED PALLIATIVE CARE SERVICES

A statutory standard definition of community-based palliative care would allow hospice programs to provide the right care at the right time by ensuring reimbursement for palliative care services.

EXPANDED ACCESS TO HOSPICE SERVICES

Education and training programs can stem provider shortage issues by encouraging more individuals to pursue a profession in the hospice and palliative care fields. NHPCO also supports removing barriers that limit hospice and palliative care access in both rural and urban communities.

REDUCTION OF REGULATORY BURDEN WHILE PROTECTING PROGRAM INTEGRITY

Current regulatory requirements produce unintentional clerical errors that can get inappropriately flagged as fraudulent activity; this misdirects resources away from patient care and from the oversight of willful bad actors. NHPCO supports regulations that promote accountability and safety and is eager to work with lawmakers to develop policies and enforcement mechanisms that promote program integrity.

SUPPORTED LEGISLATION:

- The Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act
- The Rural Access to Hospice Act
- The Patient Choice and Quality Care Act