

National Hospice & Palliative Care Organization
Public Policy Committee
Legislative Agenda for the 113th Congress

Key principles to guide our federal legislative and advocacy efforts:

- Maintain and expand access to Medicare Hospice Benefit.
- Keep the Medicare Hospice Benefit intact as a comprehensive, patient-centered care model.
- Support policies that promote program integrity to ensure continued accountability and transparency.

Ongoing priorities for NHPCO and the Hospice Action Network:

- Protect Medicare reimbursement levels, with an emphasis on policy-driven reforms that do not hinder patient access.
- Influence statutorily-required hospice payment reform to secure pilot testing prior to implementation and ongoing budget neutrality.
- Enhance provider accountability through more frequent surveys.
- Promote and advocate for innovative models.

Additional legislative efforts supported by NHPCO and the Hospice Action Network:

- Research and data on the cost effectiveness and benefits of hospice
- Adding Physician Assistants to the list of medical professionals who can act an attending physician for hospice patients
- Increased hospice and palliative care training
- Addressing the unique needs of rural hospice providers
- The elimination of the CMS requirement to submit and have claims paid in sequential order