



**Hospice
Action
Network**

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WHO WE ARE

The National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) is the largest membership organization representing hospice and palliative care programs and professionals in the United States. We represent over 4,000 hospice programs that care for the majority of hospice patients in the US. NHPCO is committed to improving end-of-life care and expanding access to hospice so that individuals and families facing serious illness, death, and grief will experience the best care that humankind can offer.

Advance Care Planning

As America's aging population grows, individuals with chronic and advanced illnesses will need access to resources and tools to help make informed choices about advance care planning. Research shows that individuals who have discussions about end-of-life care have fewer and less invasive medical treatments, and a higher quality of life. The *Care Planning Act* (S. 1549) and the *Personalize Your Care Act* (H.R. 5555) will help individuals receive person-centered care planning to ensure that doctors and hospitals understand the choices that the patient and family have made.

Care Planning Act (S. 1549)

Senators Mark Warner (D-VA) and Johnny Isakson (R-GA) introduced the *Care Planning Act*, which will give patients and families living with advanced and life-limiting illnesses knowledge and access to the kind of information and services they need. The *Care Planning Act* creates a Medicare Planning Services benefit for those with serious or life-threatening illness. Unlike the current Advance Care Planning codes, the Planning Services benefit includes a *team*-based discussion of goals of care and values, disease progression, a range of treatment options, and a documented plan that reflects the individual's preferences. The Planning Services benefit will ensure that patients and families are able to navigate the journey at the end of life with the necessary information and support that will bring dignity, quality care, and hope when they are needed the most.

The *Care Planning Act* also directs the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation to conduct an Advanced Illness Coordination Services demonstration. This demonstration will allow an interdisciplinary team to provide wrap-around, home-based services to individuals with multiple and complex chronic conditions.

"I know from my own experience with my parents that having a plan makes a world of difference in ensuring a high quality of life during a loved one's last days. [The *Care Planning Act*] will go a long way in honoring patients' wishes and empowering people to take charge of their own health care."

—Senator Johnny Isakson

Personalize Your Care Act (H.R. 5555)

The *Personalize Your Care Act* will improve our nation's ability to care for individuals who are facing advanced or life-limiting illness. Introduced by Congressmen Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) and Phil Roe (R-TN), the *Personalize Your Care Act* increases accessibility to and public awareness of advance care planning.

The legislation also requires that advance directives be included within a patient's electronic health record in order to increase the likelihood that the documents are kept up-to-date and easy to locate, and are upheld in a state other than where the care plan was established.

"I've been on both sides of these discussions – as a physician and a family member – and I know firsthand the peace of mind that comes with knowing a patient or loved one's wishes. This bill will ensure patients, families and medical professionals have the resources and tools they need to navigate these sensitive but necessary conversations."

—Congressman Phil Roe

For more information on the *Care Planning Act* and the *Personalize Your Care Act*, contact Sharon Pearce at spearce@nhpco.org.