

# Hospice and Palliative Care Workforce Development



# HAN

Hospice Action  
Network

## The Problem

Hospice providers and advocates are experiencing an unprecedented shortage of trained hospice and palliative care providers in the United States. Current rates of educating and training medical professionals in palliative care are not sufficient to ensure aging Americans access to quality care. Estimates show that there will be no more than 1% growth in the palliative care and hospice physician workforce in the next 20 years, while the number of people eligible for palliative care will increase by over 20%. **Without efforts to address the existing workforce shortage, there will be only one palliative physician for every 26,000 seriously ill patients by 2030.**<sup>1</sup>

## The Solution

Bills from the 118th Congress that support these efforts include:

- **Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act (PCHETA) (S. 2243)**, introduced by Senators Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV). This legislation will:
  - » Provide improved hospice and palliative training for health professionals
  - » Increase the number of doctors and nurses knowledgeable in palliative care
  - » Strengthen education curriculum on palliative care for health professional students
  - » Enhance public awareness for patients and professionals about palliative care
  - » Expand palliative care research
- **Provider Training in Palliative Care Act (S. 2117)**, introduced by Senators Jacky Rosen (D-NV) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK). This legislation will:
  - » Allow individuals enrolled in either the National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program or the Loan Repayment Program to defer obligated service for up to one year to receive training in palliative care.

Bills from the 117th Congress that could be re-introduced to support these efforts include:

- **Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act (H.R. 2255 / S. 1024)**, introduced by Representatives Brad Schneider (D-IL-10) and Tom Cole (R-OK-4) alongside Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL) and John Cornyn (R-TX). This legislation would:
  - » Allow U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to recapture up to 25,000 unused visas for doctors and nurses immigrating to the U.S.

## Moving Forward

The current workforce landscape, hospice and palliative care providers are often overworked and underpaid while struggling to provide excellent care. Fatigue, grief, and an aging workforce are pushing many providers out of practice. By supporting these initiatives, you will help protect access to high-quality hospice and palliative care for patients in need.

For more information, contact Logan Hoover, Vice President of Policy and Government Relations, at [lhoover@nhpco.org](mailto:lhoover@nhpco.org).

1. AAHPM. "PDF." American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine, 2018: <http://aahpm.org/uploads/advocacy/AAHPM%20Workforce%20Flyer%20-%202018.pdf>