

# PCHETA TALKING POINTS



## Share Your Story

*If you have used these services, share a story highlighting your family's experience with palliative care and hospice care. Talk about how access to well-trained palliative care professionals could have benefited you and your family.*

## Frequently Asked Questions

*During the course of your meetings with members of Congress and their staffs, you may encounter some common questions regarding the Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act (PCHETA). We have addressed some of these common questions below.*

### Q. What is palliative care?

#### Suggested Response:

- » Palliative care is a team-based approach that focuses on relieving symptoms and stress and supporting the best possible quality of life for patients, their caregivers and their families.
- » Palliative care is provided by a specially-trained team of doctors, nurses and other specialists who work with a patient's other doctors to provide an extra layer of support.
- » Palliative care is appropriate at any age and any stage of a serious illness. Palliative services can be applied from the point of diagnosis through the continuum of the disease.

### Q. What is hospice care?

#### Suggested Response:

- » Like palliative care, hospice care focuses on managing and easing symptoms, reducing pain and stress, and increasing comfort. However, hospice care is generally provided at the end of life.
- » People with Alzheimer's and other dementias rely heavily on hospice at the end of life. Of all people living with dementia, 18.6 percent are currently in hospice care – a higher percentage than other chronic conditions.
- » Nearly half of all people with dementia die in hospice care.

### Q. How much would PCHETA cost?

#### Suggested Response:

- » The bill has not been scored by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), and there is no cost estimate for the bill. However, the Alzheimer's Association will continue to work with the bill's sponsors to determine the impact this bill would have on federal spending.

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## Q. Are other organizations supportive of the legislation?

### Suggested Response:

- » Yes. PCHETA is supported by the Patient Quality of Life Coalition (PQLC), which was formed to advance the interests of patients and families facing serious illness. Over 40 health and advocacy organizations support this bill, including the American Heart Association and the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network.

## Q. What changes were made to PCHETA since the 114th Congress?

### Suggested Response:

- » The legislation is the same with the exception of one small technical correction, which was made to clarify that eligibility requirements for the education and training grant programs proposed in the legislation are consistent with all funding requirements in the Public Health Service Act.
- » A member of the Alzheimer's Association's Federal Affairs team would be happy to talk with you about the technical change made to PCHETA.



*NOTE: If your member of Congress or their staff asks you a question you do not know the answer to, that is not a problem. Do not feel any pressure to provide an answer. Simply ask them to contact a member of the Alzheimer's Association's Federal Affairs Team at 202.393.7737. Also indicate the interaction in AART so a member of the Federal Affairs team can follow-up with that office.*