

Additional Legislative Highlights [From the National Alliance for Caregiving]

Below are pieces of legislation related to Caregiving we would like to share our networks

S.1421 – Orphan Product Extensions Now Accelerating Cures and Treatments Act of 2015

Introduced by Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Co-Sponsored by Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and Tim Scott (R-SC). Similar to the House's [21st Century Cures bill](#), which passed the House in July, the bill would amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to require the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to extend by six months the exclusivity period for a drug or biological product approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) when the product is additionally approved to prevent, diagnose, or treat a new indication that is a rare disease or condition (also known as an "orphan disease"). The Alliance recognizes the importance of accelerated cures for families and is following developments on this bill in the Senate.

S. 857 and H.R. 1559 – The Health Outcomes, Planning, and Education (HOPE) for Alzheimer's Act of 2015

The bill was introduced in the Senate by Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and in the House by Representative Chris Smith (R-NY). The HOPE for Alzheimer's Act of 2015, consistent with the recommendations in the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease, would provide Medicare coverage for care planning services for both the patient and caregiver; ensure documentation of a dementia diagnosis is included in the patient's medical records; and require the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to educate healthcare providers about the new benefit and to identify barriers in access to care planning. The Alliance supports this effort to provide care planning services for patients with dementia and their caregivers.

H.R. 3119 – Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act of 2015 (PCHETA)

Introduced by Representative Eliot Engel (D-NY), the PCHETA bill is an effort to address the needs of the growing number of Americans with chronic illnesses. The bill would: 1) direct NIH to expand national research on the improvement of the delivery of palliative care; 2) establish Palliative Care and Hospice Education Centers to improve training of interdisciplinary health professionals and establish fellowship workforce development opportunities; 3) create special preferences in existing nurse education law for hospices and palliative nursing; and 4) create a national campaign to inform patients, families and health professionals about the benefits of palliative care services. The Alliance supports this effort to further educate the healthcare workforce and expand research on the delivery of palliative care to chronically ill patients.