

**ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 53**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE**

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT

District 29 (Essex)

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Tucker

SYNOPSIS

Urges Congress to pass “Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act” and fund initiatives to expand palliative care.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



ACR53 SPEIGHT, MCKNIGHT

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1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** urging Congress to pass the
2 “Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act” and
3 fund initiatives to expand palliative care.
4
5 **WHEREAS**, Palliative care is specialized medical care for people with
6 serious illness. This type of care is focused on providing relief from
7 the symptoms and stress of a serious illness. The goal is to improve
8 quality of life for both the patient and the family; and
9 **WHEREAS**, Palliative care is provided by a specially-trained team of
10 doctors, nurses, and other specialists who work together with a
11 patient’s other doctors to provide an extra layer of support. It is
12 appropriate at any age and at any stage in a serious illness, and it
13 can be provided concurrently with curative treatment; and
14 **WHEREAS**, As the U.S. population ages and develops chronic,
15 progressive illnesses, it is generally understood that there will be an
16 insufficient number of palliative care specialists to serve all patients
17 with serious illness and their families and caregivers; and
18 **WHEREAS**, Traditional medical education focuses on providing
19 physicians with the skills to diagnose and treat illness. Optimal end-
20 of-life care requires a physician to be able to diagnose,
21 prognosticate, establish goals of care with the patient based on the
22 prognosis, and then provide treatment to best respect and effectuate
23 the mutually agreed upon goals of care. As such, there is a need for
24 physicians specializing in palliative care to effectively
25 communicate with patients and their families on advance care
26 planning, end-of-life care, and informed consent discussions; and
27 **WHEREAS**, On June 27, 2018, the House Energy & Commerce
28 Subcommittee on Health passed H.R.1676, the Palliative Care and
29 Hospice Education and Training Act (PCHETA). This legislation
30 will authorize the Department of Health and Human Services to
31 award grants or contracts for Palliative Care and Hospice Education
32 Centers, promote the career development of nurses and physicians
33 in palliative care through fellowship funding and academic career
34 awards, and promote research and outreach in the delivery of care
35 for patients with serious or life-threatening illness; and
36 **WHEREAS**, The Senate version of PCHETA, S.693, was introduced on
37 March 22, 2017, and referred to the Committee on Health,
38 Education, Labor, and Pensions, and H.R.1676 was received in the
39 Senate and referred to the same committee on July 24, 2018; and
40 **WHEREAS**, There are currently only two one-year palliative care
41 fellowships in New Jersey: one at Cooper Medical School of
42 Rowan University and one at the Rowan University School of
43 Osteopathic Medicine; and
44 **WHEREAS**, Due to the shortage of palliative care fellowship programs
45 in New Jersey, there is a growing need and opportunity for
46 improvement in end-of-life care. Multidisciplinary palliative care
47 teams are needed in both the inpatient and outpatient settings; now,
48 therefore,

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24 in New Jersey: one at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University
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28 end-of-life care.