

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 46**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 30, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

SYNOPSIS

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

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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,

SCR46 RUIZ

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BE IT RESOLVED *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the General Assembly concurring):*

1. Congress is urged to pass the Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act (PCHETA), thereby providing invaluable resources, such as fellowship funding, to expand and improve end-of-life care for all Americans.

2. The New Jersey Congressional delegation is urged to work with this Legislature to help fund initiatives in end-of-life care, such as a carve-out from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services graduate medical education funding cap for palliative care fellowships, and State-designated graduate medical education payments targeted to State institutions that create palliative care fellowship programs.

3. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State, shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or the Secretary of the Senate to the presiding officers of the Congress of the United States and each member of the United States Congress elected from the State of New Jersey.

STATEMENT

This resolution urges Congress to pass the Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act (PCHETA), thereby providing invaluable resources such as fellowship funding in order to expand and improve end-of-life care for all Americans. The resolution also urges the New Jersey Congressional delegation to work with this Legislature to help fund initiatives in end-of-life care, such as a carve-out from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services graduate medical education funding cap for palliative care fellowships, and State-designated graduate medical education payments targeted to State institutions looking to create palliative care fellowship programs.

Palliative care is specialized medical care for people with serious illness. This type of care is focused on providing relief from the symptoms and stress of a serious illness. Palliative care is provided by a specially-trained team of doctors, nurses and other specialists who work together with a patient's other doctors to provide an extra layer of support. It is appropriate at any age and at any stage in a serious illness, and it can be provided along with curative treatment.

As the U.S. population ages and develops chronic, progressive illnesses, it is generally understood that there will be an insufficient number of palliative care specialists to serve all patients with serious illness and their families and caregivers.

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2 with the skills to diagnose and treat illness. Optimal end-of-life care
3 requires a physician to be able to diagnose, prognosticate, establish
4 goals of care with the patient based on the prognosis, and then
5 provide treatment to best respect and effectuate the mutually agreed
6 upon goals of care. As such, there is a need for physicians
7 specializing in palliative care to effectively communicate with
8 patients and their families on advance care planning, end-of-life
9 care, and informed consent discussions.

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19 version of PCHETA, S.693, was introduced on March 22, 2017, and
20 referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and
21 Pensions, and H.R.1676 was received in the Senate and referred to
22 the same committee on July 24, 2018.

23 Currently, there are only two one-year palliative care fellowships
24 in New Jersey: one at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University
25 and one at the Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine.
26 Due to the shortage of palliative care fellowship programs in New
27 Jersey, there is a growing need and opportunity for improvement in
28 end-of-life care.