Compassionate Care Act

Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) | Representative Nanette Barragán (CA-44)

The Compassionate Care Act would promote advance care planning and end-of-life care through physician education and public awareness campaigns; continue to modernize telehealth flexibilities for the growing aging population in the United States and develop strategies for implementing advance care planning national policies. The Compassionate Care Act will help to ensure that patients' wishes are followed , remaining flexible and portable through the end-of-life.

- Establishes guidelines for advance care planning: plans should be discussed with the patient's healthcare provider, written and recorded, and allow for flexibility.

- Establishes a National Public Awareness Campaign, that would involve culturally-competent and evidence based messaging on the importance of establishing an end-of-life care plan with providers and patients' rights, as well as the importance of ensuring these plans remain portable and accessible.

- Directs the Secretary to develop an Advance Care Planning Website for health care providers to educate providers on patient's rights, the importance of engaging with patients to develop an end-of-life care plan, and the best strategies to do so.

- Creates a grant & pilot program for schools to implement an advance care curriculum that would be developed with HHS in consultation with professional associations; students enrolled in a professional degree program at one of the schools participating in the grant program would be required to have end-of life training as a requirement for graduating.

- Based on public comment and feedback from health care providers, the Secretary will develop a set of structure-oriented, process-oriented, or outcome-oriented end-of-life and advance care planning quality measures for providers to follow.

- Directs the Secretary to work with providers, State board of medicine, and clinical associations to develop continuing education for health care providers in the advance care space; states may choose to adopt this curriculum/requirements.

- Allows physicians to perform the recertification requirement for hospice stays via telehealth

- Removes the geographic originating site requirement for telehealth advance care planning sessions, and adds homes as eligible originating sites for advance care planning. This will allow patients to receive care remotely, a distance from their provider, expanding access significantly.

- Directs the Secretary of HHS to conduct a study on the feasibility of a national advance care planning policy, focusing on the portability of end of life directives.

- Directs the Secretary of HHS to conduct a study on an advance care planning registry, focusing on the integration of advance directives in EHRs, including the use of electronic signatures.

Supported by: American Heart Association, American's Nurses Association, American Association of Nurse Practitioners, Connecticut Center for Patient Safety, Connecticut Long Term Care Ombudsman Program, Coalition to Transform Advanced Care, Compassion & Choices, National Association for Home Care & Hospice (NAHC), Consumer Coalition for Quality Health Care, Respecting Choices, National Partnership for Healthcare & Hospice Innovation (NPHI), National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO), LeadingAge, LeadingAge Connecticut, National Association of Social Workers (NASW), VyncaCare, Hospice and Palliative Nurse Association (HPNA), and American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (AAHPN)