November 15, 2018

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

The undersigned member organizations of the Patient Quality of Life Coalition write to ask that S. 693, the Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act (PCHETA) be considered as a standalone bill in the upcoming committee markup, and we stand ready to work with your staff and the bill sponsors to address any changes to the bill that may be needed to garner support of the legislation by the full committee. As you are aware, the PCHETA legislation passed unanimously out of the House of Representatives in June and has the support of over 40 bipartisan cosponsors in the Senate. By expanding the palliative care workforce, awareness and research, this bipartisan legislation will improve quality of care and quality of life for millions of patients living with serious or life-threatening illness and their family/caregivers.

As the HELP Committee looks to finalize its work of the 115th Congress, we ask that the Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act remain priority legislation that the committee continues to move forward. Our organizations represent millions of patients with serious illness, family members and caregivers who stand to benefit from this important legislation. Leadership of the Patient Quality of Life Coalition, as well as leadership of our member organizations, welcome the opportunity to work together with your staff to move PCHETA forward before the end of the 115th Congress. Please do not hesitate to reach out to Keysha Brooks-Coley, Chair, Patient Quality of Life Coalition, at keysha.brooks-coley@cancer.org or 202-661-5720.

Sincerely,

Academy of Integrative Pain Management

Alzheimer’s Association

American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

American Psychological Association

American Psychosocial Oncology Society

American Heart Association ⏐ American Stroke Association

American Society of Clinical Oncology

Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses

Association of Oncology Social Work

California State University Institute for Palliative Care

Cambia Health Solutions

Cancer Support Community

Catholic Health Association of the United States

Center to Advance Palliative Care

Children’s National Health System

Coalition for Compassionate Care of California

Colon Cancer Alliance

Courageous Parents Network

George Washington Institute for Spirituality and Health

ElevatingHOME

Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association

Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

Lung Cancer Alliance

Motion Picture & Television Fund

National Alliance for Caregiving

National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship

National Coalition for Hospice and Palliative Care

National Palliative Care Research Center

National Patient Advocate Foundation

National POLST Paradigm

Oncology Nursing Society

Pediatric Palliative Care Coalition

Physician Assistants in Hospice and Palliative Medicine

Prevent Cancer Foundation

ResolutionCare Network

St. Baldrick’s Foundation

Supportive Care Coalition

Supportive Care Matters

Trinity Health