



**National Partnership  
for Hospice Innovation**

*The not-for-profit voice for advanced illness,  
hospice, and palliative care*

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **NATIONAL HOSPICE ORGANIZATION APPLAUDS INTRODUCTION OF BIPARTISAN, BICAMERAL LEGISLATION TO ENSURE BETTER ACCESS TO CARE VIA TELEHEALTH**

**Washington, DC**— Today, the National Partnership for Hospice Innovation (NPHI), a collaborative of not-for-profit, community-integrated hospice and palliative care providers from across the country, applauded Senators Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii), Roger Wicker (R-Miss.), Ben Cardin (D-Md.), John Thune (R-S.D.), Mark Warner (D-Va.) and Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.) and U.S. Representatives Mike Thompson (D-Calif.), Peter Welch (D-Vt.), David Schweikert (R-Ariz.), and Bill Johnson (R-Ohio) on the introduction of the [CONNECT for Health Act](#) which includes language to increase access to hospice care for Medicare beneficiaries by allowing providers to recertify patients via telehealth.

“The Connect for Health Act of 2020 is a common-sense, bipartisan solution that will modernize the way we ensure access to care for Medicare beneficiaries at the end-of-life,” said Tom Koutsoumpas, President & CEO of NPHI. “Currently, hospice recertifications are required to be performed in-person by a physician which creates unnecessary travel and time away from providing essential care at the bedside, particularly in rural areas of the country.”

The Medicare hospice benefit covers any care that is reasonable and necessary for easing the course of a beneficiary’s terminal illness. In order for a patient to remain eligible for hospice care past 180 days (6 months), a hospice physician or nurse practitioner (NP) must perform a face-to-face recertification that the patient continues to meet the requirements for hospice care. The new bipartisan legislation amends Title 18 of the Social Security Act to allow face-to-face hospice 6-month recertifications to occur via telehealth.

“We applaud Senators Schatz and Wicker and Representatives Hyde-Smith, Cardin and Welch on their leadership in introducing this critical legislation and we ask the Congress to swiftly pass it in order to ensure Medicare beneficiaries on hospice get the best care possible.”

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*The National Partnership for Hospice Innovation (NPHI) is a member-comprised organization driven by passion and integrity to help people live fully through the end-of-life. Our most important priorities, policies and initiatives are learned at the bedside, not in the board room. Our members are community-focused hospice, palliative care, and advanced illness providers across the country focused on the highest quality, person and family-centered, end-of-life care.*

[www.hospiceinnovations.org](http://www.hospiceinnovations.org)

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