



June 10, 2015

Statement of the National Partnership for Hospice Innovation on the Introduction of the *Care Planning Act of 2015*

Today, Senator Mark Warner (D-Va.) and Senator Johnny Isakson (R-Ga.) introduced the historic *Care Planning Act of 2015*. The National Partnership for Hospice Innovation (NPHI) is proud to strongly support this legislation. *The Care Planning Act of 2015* marks a significant step forward in improving end-of-life care in America by supporting individuals in making informed decisions about their treatments and ensuring that the patient and family are at the center of care delivery.

The *Care Planning Act of 2015* aligns closely with NPHI's mission and supports the true spirit and original intent of the Medicare Hospice Benefit to ensure that care delivered is high-quality, comprehensive, and person-centered for those nearing the end-of-life. The legislation addresses key issues and barriers in the communication and documentation of care choices and preferences. It includes provisions to authorize voluntary advance care planning through Medicare and Medicaid, tests advanced illness care coordination services, increases public awareness of advance care planning, addresses advance directive portability, and supports studies to help develop enhanced standards of care. Additionally, the bill provides important training for families and caregivers and recognizes their critical role in care delivery. Collectively these policies are fundamental to achieving the mission and vision of NPHI.

"NPHI applauds Senators Warner, Isakson, and the original co-sponsors of the legislation for their leadership. We look forward to our continued work with them as well as the broader stakeholder community in order to ensure that all Americans receive exceptional care at the end-of-life that is high-quality, comprehensive, and person-centered," said Tom Koutsoumpas, President and CEO.

The National Partnership for Hospice Innovation's vision is that every American receives exceptional care during the last stage of their life that is consistent with their goals, values, and preferences. As not-for-profit, community-integrated hospice and palliative care providers, we play a unique role in the delivery of services and provide a crucial safety net for the sickest and most vulnerable patients. NPHI members invest heavily in bedside care, provide robust bereavement services, offer psychosocial and spiritual support, and consistently achieve the highest standard of care. A key component in delivering this kind of exceptional care involves supporting in-depth provider conversations and documentation of individual goals, wishes, and preferences which *The Care Planning Act of 2015* achieves.

For more information on NPHI and its members, please visit hospiceinnovations.org