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**Chair, Patient Quality of Life Coalition**

**Statement by the Patient Quality of Life Coalition  
on Fiscal Year 2027 Appropriations for the National Institutes of Health,  
the National Institute of Aging and Related Institutes**

**Public Witness Testimony submitted for the record to the House Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and Related Agencies  
April 16, 2026**

The Patient Quality of Life Coalition (PQLC) appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony for the record to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and Related Agencies. In FY 2027, **PQLC requests \$12.5 million for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Institute of Aging (NIA) to continue to coordinate the work of the Consortium for Palliative Care Research Across the Lifespan, and accompanying report language.**

PQLC greatly appreciates the Committee's previous support of palliative care research, notably the \$12.5 million provided in FY 2024, and continued in FY 2025 and FY 2026. Maintaining funding in FY 2027 will advance multi-Institute palliative care research, foster development of early and mid-stage researchers, and engage various healthcare systems and community partners. We urge you to prioritize robust funding of at least \$51.303 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in FY 2027 to support our nation's health and research infrastructure which benefits the more than 13 million people who are living with serious illnesses and could benefit from palliative care. We greatly appreciate your bipartisan leadership to ensure increased funding for NIH in FY 2026. However, we are very concerned that funding levels as proposed by the President's FY 2027 Budget would be felt across the country where research generates significant economic activity and jobs in every state.

**FY 2027 FUNDING REQUEST**

On behalf of our nationwide network of advocates, PQLC urges you to continue to support access to quality palliative care and appropriate, effective pain management by prioritizing palliative care research at the NIH/NIA.

**We urge the House Appropriations LHHS Subcommittee to provide \$12.5 million in FY 2027 funding to NIA for the multi-Institute, multi-Center Consortium for Palliative Care Research Across the Lifespan.**

## REPORT LANGUAGE REQUEST

Building on current efforts of NIH/NIA to establish the Consortium for Palliative Care Research Across the Lifespan, we offer the language below for your consideration as part of the report to accompany the FY 2027 LHHHS appropriations:

***Palliative Care Research.** —The Committee provides continued funding of \$12,500,000 for NIA to coordinate the work of the multi-Institute and multi-Center initiative in palliative care research, including extra-mural-based research infrastructure, by developing early and mid-stage researchers, and engaging various healthcare systems, providers, and community partners. The Committee recognizes that palliative care is a critical area of research and informs supportive care for patients of all ages with serious illness and their families focused on relief of symptoms and suffering, communication of prognosis and treatment options in the context of patient goals, and coordination of care within and across healthcare settings. The Committee commends NIA for spearheading the funding opportunities to support a national Consortium for Palliative Care Research Across the Lifespan. This Consortium will provide resources, expertise, and coordination to advance innovative, high-quality palliative care research across the lifespan and across a range of serious illnesses, including dementia. The Consortium will also emphasize scientific workforce development in palliative care, in addition to clarifying and addressing differences in quality and use of palliative care services across populations.*

We are pleased by the strong interest nationwide in this key funding opportunity. The Advancing the Science of Palliative Care Research Across the Lifespan (ASCENT) Consortium Research Scholar Award—intended to support early-career investigators building careers in palliative care research—attracted applicants from institutions such as the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Yale University, Rutgers, Baylor College of Medicine, and the University of Texas at Arlington. The ASCENT Pilot and Exploratory Studies Award—designed to fund innovative projects that enhance the lives of patients with serious illness and their caregivers—received submissions from investigators in Alabama, Connecticut, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, New Hampshire, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Washington, and Wisconsin.

We also value the Committee’s ongoing oversight of this process, including its requirement for regular updates from NIA and advance notification prior to issuing a Notice of Award for the Consortium which we understand is expected in June 2026.

## BACKGROUND

Palliative care is specialized medical care for people with serious illnesses. It focuses on providing patients with relief from the symptoms and stress of a serious illness. Palliative care is appropriate

at any age and any stage in a serious illness (ideally made available to patients with serious illnesses upon diagnosis) and can be provided along with curative treatment. By focusing on priorities that matter most to patients and their families, palliative care has been shown to improve both quality of care and quality of life during and after treatment. Furthermore, palliative care reduces hospital utilization and results in overall cost savings. Yet, despite the demonstrated benefits of palliative care, there remain millions of Americans who are unable to access such services.

The requested FY 2027 appropriations funding would continue the valuable work started by the Committee's FY 2024 investment in palliative care research and allow NIH to continue the five-year plan set out in the Notice of Funding Opportunity to develop a Consortium. The aim of the Consortium will be to provide resources, expertise, and coordination to advance innovative, high-quality research on palliative care for those living with serious illnesses across the lifespan. This research infrastructure will encompass Alzheimer's disease (AD) and AD-related dementias, cancer, and other serious illnesses and populations relevant to the partnering institutes, centers, and offices (ICOs).

Thank you for your serious consideration of our funding and report language requests. PQLC looks forward to working with you to improve the quality of care for patients living with serious illness and their families.