



April 28, 2026

The Honorable Robert Aderholt  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: FY 2027 LHHS Funding and Report Language Request to Support Palliative Care Research**

Dear Chair Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro:

The undersigned member organizations of the Patient Quality of Life Coalition (PQLC) write to thank you for previously including \$12.5 million for the National Institute of Aging (NIA) to implement a multi-institute, multi-disease strategy to focus, expand, and intensify a national research program in palliative care. Your ongoing bipartisan and steadfast leadership has been instrumental in realizing this step to strengthen the commitment to support patients facing serious illness and their families. PQLC is a group of over 35 organizations dedicated to advancing the interests of patients and families facing serious illness, with the overarching goal of providing patients with serious illness greater access to palliative care services. Our members represent patients and their caregivers, health professionals, and healthcare systems.

**As you work to advance the FY 2027 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor/HHS) bill, we write in support of our funding and report language requests for \$12.5 million to continue to coordinate the work of the multi-disease Consortium for Palliative Care Research Across the Lifespan, [as discussed in our testimony](#).** Such funding will advance 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.

**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 National Institutes of Health (NIH)/NIA.

**We urge the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor/HHS 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 LHHS 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.

This requested FY 2027 appropriations funding would continue the valuable work started by the Appropriations Committee’s FY 2024 palliative care funding. Continued funding in FY 2027 would allow

NIH to continue the five-year plan set out in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to develop a specialized center called the "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 (ADRD), cancer, and other serious illnesses and populations relevant to the partnering ICOs.

We greatly appreciate your leadership and previous support of advancing palliative care research. Our organizations welcome the opportunity to discuss our requested funding and report language with you. If you have any questions, please contact Dan Smith, acting chair of PQLC at [dan.smith@advocacysmiths.com](mailto:dan.smith@advocacysmiths.com).

Sincerely,

Alzheimer's Association

Alzheimer's Impact Movement

American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

American Heart Association

Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses

Catholic Health Association of the United States

Center to Advance Palliative Care

Coalition for Compassionate Care of California

GO2 for Lung Cancer

Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association

Motion Picture & Television Fund

National Alliance for Care at Home

National Alliance for Caregiving

National Brain Tumor Society

National Coalition for Hospice and Palliative Care

National Patient Advocate Foundation

Oncology Nursing Society

Pediatric Palliative Care Coalition

Physician Associates in Hospice & Palliative Medicine