January 24, 2019

The Honorable Eliot Engel U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr. Chair, Energy & Commerce Committee U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Yvette D. Clarke U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Reed U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden Ranking Member, Energy & Commerce Committee U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Buddy Carter U.S. House of Representatives

still experience troubling

symptoms, unmet psychological and personal care needs, fragmented care, poor communication with their health care providers, and enormous strains on their family caregivers. However, numerous studies have shown that adding palliative care can improve pain and symptom control, quality of life, and patient and family satisfaction.

Palliative care is an interdisciplinary model of care focused on relief of the pain, stress and other debilitating symptoms of serious illness, such as cancer, cardiac disease, respiratory disease, kidney IDLOXUH \$O]KHLPHU¶V \$, '6 \$/6 DQG 06 , WVJRDO LV WR UHOLHYH quality of life for patients and their families. Palliative care can be offered simultaneously with life-prolonging and curative therapies for persons living with serious, complex, and eventually terminal illness and includes hospice care. By its very nature, palliative care is patient-centered care ² translating patient goals to appropriate treatments.

We appreciate your leadership in recognizing the significant role palliative care and hospice can play in

PCHETA also aims to strengthen clinical practice and improve health care delivery for patients living with serious or life-threatening illness, as well as their families, by directing funding toward palliative care research. Research funding for palliative care and pain and symptom management comprises less than 0.1 percent of the National Institutes of Health annual budget. PCHETA would direct an expansion and intensification of research in these important areas.

At the same time, more must be done to ensure patients and providers are aware of the benefits of palliative care. \$FFRUGLQJ WR WKH, QVWLWXWH RI 0HGLFLQH WKHUH LV D ³ palliative care among both the public and professionals across the continuum of care PCHETA would direct the implementation of a national education and awareness campaign so that

cc: House Committee on Energy and Commerce members