



January 20, 2021

**COALITION MEMBERS**

American Academy of Hospice  
and Palliative Medicine  
(AAHPM)

Association of  
Professional Chaplains  
(APC)

Center to Advance  
Palliative Care  
(CAPC)

HealthCare  
Chaplaincy Network™  
(HCCN)

Hospice and Palliative  
Nurses Association  
(HPNA)

National Association for Home  
Care & Hospice  
(NAHC)

National Hospice and  
Palliative Care Organization  
(NHPCO)

National Palliative  
Care Research Center  
(NPCRC)

Palliative Care Quality  
Collaborative  
(PCQC)

Physician Assistants in Hospice  
and Palliative Medicine  
(PAHPM)

Social Work Hospice &  
Palliative Care Network  
(SWHPN)

Society of Pain & Palliative  
Care Pharmacists  
(SPPCP)

Supportive Care Coalition  
(SCC)

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

**RE: Executive Order 13950, Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping**

Dear President Biden:

The National Coalition for Hospice and Palliative Care (Coalition, or NCHPC) is writing to urge you to immediately rescind the Trump Administration's Executive Order 13950, Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping. We understand from a recent announcement that it is your intention to do so and want to be one of the first to thank you for your leadership in reversing this egregious policy. The Coalition represents 13 leading professional organizations dedicated to advancing the delivery of high-quality hospice and palliative care to all who need it. The Coalition's mission is to present a united, yet diverse voice on behalf of providers, professionals, and other organizations who are interested in working together to advocate for equitable healthcare policies and programs that will improve the care of patients with serious or life-threatening illness and their families/caregivers. We exist as a Coalition to serve seriously ill patients, and their families and caregivers regardless of race, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, religion, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, or disability.

To that end, the undersigned organizations write to express our significant concerns with Executive Order 13950, which places harmful restrictions on the ability of federal contractors, grantees, and civilian and military personnel to engage in essential training necessary to understand and address factors contributing to disparities in healthcare access and outcomes, including based on race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, and sexual orientation. Failure to adhere to such restrictions could result in contract cancellation, termination, or suspension, or other sanctions or adverse actions.

If fully implemented and enforced, the Executive Order would undermine widespread efforts to mitigate the harmful effects of systemic racism and bias across the nation, including in the care of patients with serious illness. Indeed, disparities in access to and equity of health care for people with serious illness have been well established.<sup>1</sup> By eliminating the training and education tools needed to address such disparities, Executive Order 13950 would exacerbate inequality, resulting in devastating outcomes

<sup>1</sup> See *Improving Access to and Equity of Care for People with Serious Illness: Proceedings of a Workshop*. Washington, D.C.: National Academies Press; 2019. <https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/improving-access-to-and-equity-of-care-for-people-with-serious-illness-a-workshop>.



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for patient populations that are already among the most vulnerable to poor health outcomes, including racial and ethnic minorities.

The Institute of Medicine identified equitable care as one of six specific aims for improving the 21<sup>st</sup> century healthcare system,<sup>2</sup> and it is a goal that the Coalition fully embraces. To improve the quality of health care for all people living with serious illness, we must address systemic racism, implicit bias, and social determinants of health, starting with the education and training of the healthcare professionals who are entrusted to deliver care. Executive Order 13950, however, places organizations at risk for engaging in such education, which is critical for ensuring high-quality care for people with serious illness. We therefore urge you to rescind this Executive Order immediately as you are planning to do, to enable our members and other stakeholders who share our goals of eliminating health disparities and achieving equitable care to engage in training and education that tackles these issues head on, without fear of federal defunding or other punitive actions. We look forward to working with your Administration in this and other ways to advance racial equity.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. If you or your staff have any questions or would like to discuss this feedback further with any of our Coalition's leaders, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Coalition's Executive Director Amy Melnick, MPA, at [amym@nationalcoalitionhpc.org](mailto:amym@nationalcoalitionhpc.org) or 202.306.3590.

### **Organizational Signatories**

American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine  
Association of Professional Chaplains  
Catholic Health Association (Supportive Care Coalition)  
Center to Advance Palliative Care  
HealthCare Chaplaincy Network  
Hospice Palliative Nurses Association  
National Association for Home Care & Hospice  
National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization  
National Palliative Care Research Center  
Palliative Care Quality Collaborative  
Physician Assistants in Hospice and Palliative Medicine  
Social Work Hospice & Palliative Care Network  
Society of Pain and Palliative Care Pharmacists