



April 22, 2025

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chairman
House Energy and Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Michael D. Crapo
Chairman
Senate Finance Committee
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
House Energy and Commerce Committee
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
Senate Finance Committee
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Guthrie, Chairman Crapo, Ranking Member Pallone, and Ranking Member Wyden:

On behalf of the National Coalition for Hospice and Palliative Care, we urge you to **protect Medicaid funding and oppose any budget reconciliation proposals that threaten access to palliative and supportive care for children with serious illnesses.** We are concerned that the House-passed budget resolution (H.Con.Res.14) requires the House Energy and Commerce Committee to produce at least \$880 billion in savings. As your committees consider policies to achieve required savings, we urge you to protect Medicaid funding. **Cuts to Medicaid** would jeopardize essential care for babies and children living with serious illness, leaving families without access to life-sustaining medical support.

As palliative care clinicians and patient advocates, we witness firsthand how Medicaid provides a lifeline to children with conditions such as pediatric cancers, genetic disorders, and complex chronic illnesses. Medicaid covers nearly half of all children and youth with special health care needs, including those who rely on home- and community-based services (HCBS), medical equipment, and hospital-based palliative care.^{i,ii,iii} Without Medicaid, these children would face delayed or denied care, increased hospitalizations, and the risk of institutionalization—at much higher costs to the healthcare system.

Pediatric palliative care programs help reduce hospitalizations and improve care coordination, allowing families to care for their children at home rather than in hospitals or long-term care facilities.^{iv} By keeping families intact and reducing preventable emergency department visits, Medicaid-funded palliative care actually lowers overall healthcare expenditures while ensuring the best possible quality of life for medically complex children.

We strongly urge you to protect Medicaid funding and oppose any budget proposals that threaten access to palliative and supportive care for children with serious illnesses. These cuts would be **devastating for the most vulnerable children and their families**. We appreciate your leadership and ask for your continued commitment to safeguarding Medicaid and ensuring that all children have access to the care they need to survive and thrive.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine
Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago
A Rosie Place for Children
AE Body Alchemy, LLC
Bridges HealthCare, Inc
Capital Caring Health
Center to Advance Palliative Care
Chapters Health System
Children's Coping Connection
Children's Hospice and Palliative Care Coalition of California
Coalition for Compassionate Care of California
Connecticut Association for Healthcare at Home
Courageous Parents Network
Crescent Cove
C-TAC
Ecumen Hospice
George Mark Children's House
Georgia Hospice and Palliative Care Organization
Healing Rhythms Music Therapy, LLC
HealthCare Chaplaincy Network
Healwell
Heartlinks
Hero's Path Palliative Care
Hosparus Health
Hospice & Palliative Care Federation of Massachusetts
Hospice & Palliative Care Network of Maryland
Hospice and Palliative Care Association of Iowa
Hospice and Palliative Care Association of New York State
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association
Hospice Council of West Virginia
Hospice of Northwest Ohio
Houston Hospice
Illinois Hospice & Palliative Care Organization
Kansas City Hospice & Palliative Care
Kōkua Mau
Kyle's Mountain House

Life House Atlanta Children's Respite, Inc.
LifeSprings Consulting Group, LLC
Louisiana Mississippi Hospice & Palliative Care Organization
Loving Home Hospice for Children
Mason's Light House
Michigan Homecare and Hospice Association
Minnesota Palliative Care Advisory Council
Missouri Hospice & Palliative Care Association
Mountain Valley-Love's PEAK (Providing Empathy and Assurance for Kids)
National Center for Pediatric Palliative Care Homes
National Partnership for Healthcare and Hospice Innovation
Ohio Pediatric Palliative Care and End-of-Life Network
Oregon Hospice & Palliative Care Association
Our Lady of Peace Hospice and Home Care
Pediatric Palliative Care Coalition
Pediatric Palliative Care Coalition of Minnesota
Physician Associates in Hospice and Palliative Medicine
Rainbow Hospice Care, Inc.
Rays for Rare
Social Work Hospice and Palliative Network
Society for Social Work Leadership in Health Care
Society of Pain and Palliative Care Pharmacists
Sound Connections Counseling
Stillwater Hospice
Texas ~ New Mexico Hospice & Palliative Care Organization
The Alliance for the Advancement of End-of-Life Care
VNA Health
Washington State Hospice & Palliative Care Organization

ⁱ National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. *NHPCO Pediatric Facts and Figures 2023 Edition*; 2023. Accessed March 11, 2025. https://www.nhpc.org/wp-content/uploads/NHPCO_Pediatric_Facts_Figures_2023.pdf

ⁱⁱ Lindley LC, Lyon ME. A Profile of Children with Complex Chronic Conditions at End of Life among Medicaid Beneficiaries: Implications for Health Care Reform. *Journal of Palliative Medicine*. 2013;16(11):1388-1393. doi: 10.1089/jpm.2013.0099

ⁱⁱⁱ Williams E, Musumeci M. Children with Special Health Care Needs: Coverage, Affordability, and HCBS Access. KFF. Published October 4, 2021. <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/children-with-special-health-care-needs-coverage-affordability-and-hcbs-access/>

^{iv} Gans D, Hadler MW, Chen X, et al. Cost Analysis and Policy Implications of a Pediatric Palliative Care Program. *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*. 2016;52(3):329-335. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpainsymman.2016.02.020>