

families, and their health care providers aligns treatment with patients' wishes.

To help encourage advance care planning, the Personalize Your Care Act would provide Medicare and Medicaid coverage of voluntary advance care planning consultations between individuals and their doctor, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant. Such consultations would occur no more often than every five years unless there is a significant change in the health, health-related condition or care setting of the individual.

Honoring the expressed wishes of individuals must be a priority regardless of where the care is provided. To this end, the bill would ensure that an individual's electronic health record would include their current advance directive and/or physician orders for life sustaining treatment (POLST), so that their wishes would be more easily accessible and respected. Furthermore, advance directives would be more portable to help individuals ensure that advance directives executed in one state are honored in another state in which the individual needs care.

Finally, the bill would also authorize grants to establish statewide programs for physician orders for life sustaining treatment or to expand or enhance existing POLST programs. POLST translates the wishes of patients with advanced chronic progressive illness into medical orders that health care systems understand.

AARP supports your bill to help give Americans peace of mind knowing their wishes for care are understood and respected. If you have any further questions, please feel free to call me or have your staff contact Rhonda Richards on our Government Relations staff at (202) 434-3770.

Sincerely,

DAVID P. SLOANE,
Senior Vice President,
Government Relations
and Advocacy.

SUPPORTIVE CARE COALITION,
July 15, 2010.

Hon. EARL BLUMENAUER,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Re: Personalize Your Care Act of 2010

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE BLUMENAUER: The Supportive Care Coalition is pleased to endorse the "Personalize Your Care Act of 2010" which promotes advance health care planning and provides individuals the opportunity to fully participate in decisions related to their health care or the care of a person for whom they are the proxy or surrogate. The Coalition supports providing a Medicare and Medicaid benefit for voluntary patient-physician consultations regarding advance care planning. These consultations will ensure that an individual's values and goals for care are identified, understood and respected. This legislation also provides grants to states to create Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment programs, allows portability of advance directives across states, and requires standards to include completed advance care planning documents within a patient's electronic record, increasing the likelihood that these documents are kept up-to-date and available.

The Supportive Care Coalition, comprised of 19 Catholic health organizations with approximately 425 acute care hospitals and 150 long-term care facilities nationwide, works to assure excellence in palliative care in all Catholic health care settings.

We envision a society in which all persons living with or affected by a chronic or life-threatening condition receive compassionate, holistic, coordinated care. This will include relief of pain, suffering and other symptoms from the time of diagnosis

throughout the process of living and dying. Such excellent care will be provided according to need, respecting the values and goals of individuals, their families and other loved ones. It will assist them to live fully in community and will support survivors in their bereavement. Through such care, we believe that God's healing love is revealed.

The Coalition commends you on your leadership in promoting advance health care planning and we look forward to collaborating with you to facilitate available and accessible high-quality palliative care services across the continuum of care.

Sincerely,

JAMES SHAW, MD.,
Chair, Board of Directors.

TINA PICCHI, MA, BCC,
Executive Director.

NATIONAL, HOSPICE AND
PALLIATIVE CARE ORGANIZATION,
Alexandria, VA, July 6, 2010.

Hon. EARL BLUMENAUER,
Rayburn House Office Building, Washington,
DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE BLUMENAUER: On behalf of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization and its more than 30,000 provider and individual members, I am writing in support of the Personalize Your Care Act of 2010. While research shows that a large majority of Americans would prefer to die at home, more than seventy-five percent die in hospitals each year. At the same time, additional research shows that when people facing a life-limiting illness have discussions with their physician about end-of-life care preferences, they experience less physical and psychological distress and overall, a better quality of death.

Your proposed legislation recognizes that with appropriate Medicare and Medicaid coverage for voluntary advance care planning consultations, grants for programs in support of Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST), advance care planning standards for electronic health records and portability of advanced directives, the American healthcare system can meet the complex needs of our aging population.

The Personalize Your Care Act would empower patients, decrease the burden on families, and produce end-of-life care outcomes, while increasing care quality and adherence to patient wishes. Enactment of your legislation would mean the realization of many long-time NHPCO goals, especially the provision of coverage for voluntary advance care planning consultation between a patient and their health care practitioner. Discussing advance care planning before a Medicare or Medicaid beneficiary finds him or herself in a medical crisis will help ensure the patient gets the care that he or she wants. One of the most frequent comments from family caregivers that hospice providers hear is "Why didn't we know about this sooner?" Coverage for advance care planning consultations would ensure patients and family caregivers knew all of their options earlier.

NHPCO commends your leadership on the advancement of end-of-life care planning. We strongly support passage of this important legislation, and look forward to working with you on this and future legislation that meets the need for all Americans to have access to quality end-of-life care.

Sincerely,

J. DONALD SCHUMACHER, PSYD
President/CEO.

AMERICAN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION,
Washington, DC, July 20, 2010.

Hon. EARL BLUMENAUER,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. BLUMENAUER: On behalf of the American Hospital Association's (AHA) more than 5,000 member hospitals, health systems and other health care organizations, and the physicians and other practitioners that work in hospitals, I commend you for introducing the Personalize Your Care Act of 2010.

Your legislation recognizes that today's fast-paced health care environment often impedes effective communication between patients, families and caregivers—physician visits and hospital stays are shorter, medical care more complex, and more patients want to take an active role in care decisions. Hospitals have been doing ever more to foster clearer, more frequent and more satisfying communication during the hospital experience, and these discussions add quality and value to patient care. Your legislation rightly addresses the need for Medicare and Medicaid to recognize the time and training required of physicians and other practitioners to talk with patients in advance to clearly articulate their wishes for treatment if they suffer a life-threatening medical crisis.

Three years ago, the AHA joined in a campaign designed to encourage patients to articulate their wishes for care—a campaign we called "Put it in Writing." Your bill would ensure that patients could draw on the knowledge and perspective of a trusted clinician as they seek to articulate their desires. We look forward to working with you toward enactment of this important initiative.

Sincerely,

RICK POLLACK,
Executive Vice President.

HONORING BOY SCOUT TROOP 463
OF NORTHFORD, CONNECTICUT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Boy Scout Troop 463 for its forty-five years of service to our community, and to congratulate them for being chosen to represent Connecticut, the Connecticut Yankee Council, and the Boy Scouts of America by carrying the Council's flag in the Centennial Parade in Washington, D.C.

Originally chartered in March of 1965 and sponsored by Northford Acres Volunteer Fire Department Company #3, Troop 463 of Northford, CT, was established to provide character development and citizenship training and promote mental and physical fitness among the youth of the community.

The boys of Troop 463 have dedicated at least forty weekends a year to Scout related activities. Community Service is a fundamental part of the Scouting Program, and the Troop has volunteered with organizations such as Relay For Life, Habitat for Humanity and Town Leaf Recycling. They have also participated in food drives, clothing drives, and community and church cleanups.

Since 2007, six Scouts have achieved scouting's highest rank, Eagle Scout, bringing Troop 463's total to an impressive 23. Recently, Life Scout Joseph L. Parisi completed the Troop's latest Eagle Scout Project, the planning and construction of a 200 foot long pedestrian bridge on a town hiking trail.

I share Troop 463's pride in being nominated as a "Super Troop" for four years, three of which have been consecutive. The Super Troop honor is bestowed upon the Troop which exemplifies the best in Scout Spirit, competitive edge, good attitude and demonstrates a positive example to others.

Madam Speaker, the young men of Boy Scout Troop 463 have shown dedication to their peers, their community, and their cause. The Troop's accomplishments reflect the best values of Scouting and should not go unnoticed.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT
GENERAL R. STEVEN WHITCOMB

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it has come to my attention that Lieutenant General R. Steven Whitcomb will retire after 40 years of service in the United States Army on October 1, 2010. He has served his country well and will be sorely missed.

Lieutenant General Whitcomb graduated from the University of Virginia in 1970 with a Bachelor's degree in History. From there, he went on to receive degrees from the California University of Pennsylvania, the United States Army Command and General Staff College, and the United States Army War College. He was commissioned through ROTC and entered the U.S. Army as an Infantry Officer.

First stationed at Fort Bragg in North Carolina, he steadily rose through the ranks and excelled at each assignment he was given. From combat operations in Desert Shield/Desert Storm to Operation Joint Forge to Operation Iraqi Freedom, he effectively led our men and women into battle and never forgot that the Army's most precious assets are those who wear the uniform of our Nation's military. Throughout his career he consistently showed his dedication to the youngest members of the U.S. Army. As a professor and a mentor for ROTC, he made sure the young cadets of the U.S. Army were well-trained with high morale and in excellent physical condition.

At the Pentagon, Lieutenant General Whitcomb served several roles including Executive Officer for the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army and Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans. He ended his forty years of distinguished service as the Inspector General for the Office of the Secretary of the Army.

Madam Speaker, throughout his lifetime of service, Lieutenant General R. Steven Whitcomb has shown uncommon professionalism and dedication to the mission of the United States Army. I wish him the very best in his well-earned retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the House Floor during yesterday's three rollcall votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H. Res. 1472, H. Con. Res. 126, and H. Res. 1219.

RECOGNIZING THE 36TH ANNIVERSARY OF TURKEY'S ILLEGAL INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, tonight I join my colleagues on the House floor to remember the 36th anniversary of Turkey's illegal occupation of Cyprus.

On July 20th 1974, Turkey invaded Cyprus in violation of international law and at great cost to the citizens of Cyprus. Turkish troops established a heavily-armed force which occupied the northern part of Cyprus and continues to occupy close to 37 percent of Cyprus' territory. The invasion forced nearly 200,000 Greek Cypriots to flee their homes—making one-third of the Cypriot population refugees in their own country.

Today, Turkey continues to illegally occupy northern Cyprus with a force of 43,000 troops. This unbelievable number of troops amounts to almost one Turkish soldier for every two Turkish Cypriots. This military occupation flies in defiance of international pressure to achieve a peaceful settlement.

Beyond the military occupation of northern Cyprus it is important to consider the mass colonization which has resulted in 160,000 Turkish mainland settlers illegally living on property owned by Greek Cypriots or even U.S. citizens. Once again this illegal colonization comes despite international pressure on Turkey to take action to stop the illegal occupation and ensure the return of properties to their rightful owners.

In fact, since 1974 more than 75 resolutions have been adopted by the U.N. Security Council and more than 13 by the U.N. General Assembly calling for a withdrawal of Turkish troops and the return of refugees to their rightful homes. However, the Turkish government continues to remain defiant, plainly ignoring these calls to withdraw.

In recent months we have continued to see Turkey pursue policies that not only hurt its relations with nations that should serve as true democratic allies, but also policies that hurt regional relations and stability. I have been an outspoken opponent of Turkey's irresponsible regional relations, which in many ways negatively affect the U.S. Whether it is the illegal blockade on its border with Armenia, the failure to take proper recourse to investigate a domestic group that incited a deadly incident with Israeli troops, their continued violations of Greek airspace or their illegal occupation of northern Cyprus, Turkey disrespects international law and regional partners of the United States.

There comes a time when the United States must say enough is enough and take principled steps to prevent further destabilizing actions. As a member of the Hellenic Caucus, I have long advocated for the withdrawal of Turkish forces from northern Cyprus and called on Turkey to support a settlement that comes from the Cypriots themselves.

The United States must do its part to foster a united Cyprus. It is in the best interest of the

United States, and I believe all involved parties to ensure that the goal is a reunified Cyprus where Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots live together in peace and security. A successful settlement effort must build on the work towards a bizonal, bicommunal federation with political equality that represents U.N. Security Council resolutions. In the end, Cyprus must have a single sovereignty and single citizenship which all Cypriots can enjoy.

Now is the time for Turkey to show that they are willing to take a sincere approach to allowing a peaceful resolution to the dispute. The leadership in Ankara must show that the will and support behind a peaceful settlement is in the best interest of Turkey and that it is fully supported. Without such a signal by the government of Turkey, a final settlement will continue to dwindle as Turkish settlers pursue the policies of their home nation.

It is now thirty-six years since the illegal Turkish invasion and subsequent occupation of Cyprus. However, the resolve has never been greater to ensure that Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots alike benefit from a united nation that affords them the stability and security that all citizens deserve. The Government of the Republic of Cyprus has shown their willingness to work constructively with the Cypriots towards a reunified island. It is time for Turkey to do the same.

Last Congress, I introduced the bipartisan American Owned Property in Occupied Cyprus Claims Act. Through this legislation, Americans who are being denied access to their property and even their ancestral homes will finally be able to seek restitution. I am currently working with different stakeholders to strengthen this bill before reintroduction.

Madam Speaker, as we remember the 36th Anniversary of Turkey's illegal invasion and occupation of Cyprus, I remain hopeful a united Cyprus can become a reality. However, the United States can not be complacent in this goal.

COMMEMORATING THE 36TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today, on the thirty-sixth anniversary of Turkey's invasion of Cyprus, to sadly commemorate this tragic event. Turkey's illegal occupation has continued for far too long. After decades of stagnation, the situation in Cyprus demands a just and comprehensive solution.

Throughout my tenure in Congress, I have passionately, aggressively, and persistently called for an end to the devastating artificial division of the island of Cyprus. I have been an outspoken critic of Turkey's obstinate beligerence on this issue and a supporter of what seems like countless bills and resolutions pleading, urging, and demanding a just and peaceful resolution.

My voice has been just one in a rising chorus of international leaders asking Turkey to end its occupation and help facilitate a solution that is amenable to all Cypriots. Since Turkey's 1974 invasion, numerous United Nations resolutions have condemned Turkey's