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May 18, 2016

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
United States Senate  
172 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senate  
706 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Capito and Senator Blumenthal:

The Pew Charitable Trusts is pleased to support the *Compassionate Care Act*, which recognizes that many Americans near the end of life do not receive care that reflects their values, goals and preferences. This bipartisan bill addresses a number of federal policy issues around advanced illness, including the development of quality measures and expansion of innovative palliative and end-of-life care models. Together, the provisions of this bill would move us toward a more patient-centered system of health care.

The Pew Charitable Trusts is an independent, non-profit research and public policy organization. Pew's project on improving end-of-life care advances policies that help people receive high-quality health care as they near the end of their lives.

Quality measures are an integral element of advancing palliative and end-of-life care. In the changing world of value-based payments, quality measures for documenting progress in efforts to improve the health care system and identifying potential areas of focus. Unfortunately, there are few measures designed for palliative care and even fewer that apply to more than one type of health care provider or are used by alternative payment models such as managed care or accountable care organizations (ACOs). The *Compassionate Care Act* requires the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services to select and implement quality measures for palliative and end-of-life care across settings of care. We strongly endorse the bill's language to develop measures that cut across care and provider settings.

Pew advocates for the development of innovative models of care designed to address the needs of people with serious and advanced illness. Current demonstration programs, such as the Medicare Choices program, are important first efforts. If it is successful, such a program would reduce the artificial barrier between curative care and comfort care. We support legislation such as the *Compassionate Care Act* that would require the Department of Health & Human Services to undertake additional programs to test other new models of palliative and end-of-life care.

We appreciate your leadership on advancing palliative and end-of-life care and we look forward to working with you to help advance this important legislative initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lee Goldberg". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "L".

Lee Goldberg  
Director, Project on Improving End-of-Life Care  
The Pew Charitable Trusts