
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES, PRIVATE HEALTH INSURERS, AND PRIVATE HEALTH PROVIDERS TO ADOPT THE PRINCIPLES AND HEALTH CARE GUIDELINES REGARDING END-OF-LIFE CARE IN THE DARTMOUTH ATLAS OF HEALTH CARE.

1 WHEREAS, the Dartmouth Atlas Project examines patterns of
2 health care delivery and practice across the United States and
3 evaluates the quality of health care Americans receive; and
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5 WHEREAS, according to the Dartmouth Atlas of Health Care,
6 more than 90 million Americans live with at least one chronic
7 illness and seven out of ten Americans die from chronic disease;
8 and
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10 WHEREAS, among the Medicare population, the toll is even
11 greater: About nine out of ten deaths are associated with just
12 one of the nine chronic illnesses that include congestive heart
13 failure, chronic lung disease, cancer, coronary artery disease,
14 renal failure, peripheral vascular disease, diabetes, chronic
15 liver disease, and dementia; and
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17 WHEREAS, patients with chronic illness in their last two
18 years of life account for about 32 percent of total Medicare
19 spending, with much of it going toward physician and hospital
20 fees associated with repeated hospitalization; and
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22 WHEREAS, research suggests that the care patients receive
23 is not necessarily the care patients want; and
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25 WHEREAS, such evidence comes from a large-scale study
26 funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation that found that
27 most patients with serious illness said they would prefer to die
28 at home, yet most patients died in hospitals, and care was



1 rarely aligned with patients' reported preferences, even though
2 extensive efforts were made by trained nurses to align patients'
3 care with patients' wishes; and

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5 WHEREAS, for example, among patients who indicated that
6 they preferred to die at home, the majority (55 percent)
7 actually died in a hospital; and

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9 WHEREAS, evidence suggests that patients often prefer a
10 more conservative pattern of end-of-life care than they actually
11 receive, and a patient's wishes can be less influential than the
12 practice patterns of health care providers and hospitals where
13 care is delivered; and

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15 WHEREAS, people with severe chronic illness who live in
16 communities where they receive more intensive inpatient care do
17 not have improved survival, better quality of life, or better
18 access to care than patients who live in communities where they
19 receive less care; and

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21 WHEREAS, patients who live in high capacity and high-income
22 communities have experiences that differ dramatically, receive a
23 much more aggressive brand of medicine, visit medical
24 specialists more frequently, spend more days in the hospital,
25 and die in an intensive-care unit more often than those in lower
26 intensity regions; and

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28 WHEREAS, these findings underscore the importance of
29 innovative approaches to care that help ensure patients and
30 their families engage in discussions of their preferences before
31 they become seriously ill, and providers respecting these
32 preferences; and

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34 WHEREAS, the Dartmouth Atlas of Health Care indicates that
35 more care does not necessarily deliver better outcomes or care
36 than care that is geared more to a patient's wishes and a more
37 comfortable end-of-life experience; now, therefore,

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39 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
40 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
41 of 2012, the Senate concurring, that the Centers for Medicare &
42 Medicaid Services, private health insurers, and private health
43 providers are urged to adopt the principles and health care



1 guidelines regarding end-of-life care in the Dartmouth Atlas of
2 Health Care; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of the
6 Department of Health and Human Services, Administrator of the
7 Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Hawaii's Congressional
8 Delegation, Governor of Hawaii, Director of Health, Director of
9 Human Services, Board President of AlohaCare; President and
10 Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Management Alliance
11 Association; President and Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii
12 Medical Service Association; Chairperson and Chief Executive
13 Officer of Humana Insurance Company; President of Kaiser
14 Foundation Health Plan, Inc.; President and Chief Executive
15 Officer of Summerlin Life & Health Insurance Co.; President of
16 United Health Alliance; President and Chief Executive Officer of
17 United Healthcare Insurance Company; and Chief Executive Officer
18 of Wellcare Health Insurance of Arizona Inc.

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