



CHILDREN'S HOSPICE INTERNATIONAL

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Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We are so honored to announce that all of our hard work over the years is coming to fruition with the introduction of the Children's Program of All-inclusive Coordinated Care (ChiPACC) BILL, aka the Mattie & Melinda Bill (**HR 6931**) was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by Congressman James P. Moran (D-VA), Tom Davis (R-VA) and their colleagues.

ChiPACC creates a new paradigm where seriously ill children truly receive the type and level of care appropriate to their particular needs; and families can maximize the quality and the comfort of the precious time they have with their seriously ill children.

To support ChiPACC Legislation: Contact your state's U.S. Senators and Representatives through CHI's website: www.CHIONline.org - click on the "Write to Congress" button. A Sample letter of support is available on the website.

ChiPACC is based upon the collaborative model of care developed by Children's Hospice International (CHI) which was developed with bipartisan, bicameral support from Congress, technical assistance from CMS, and the expertise of many of you. We deeply appreciate all of your efforts toward the development and implementation of the CHI PACC model and we look forward to your continued support of this bill. The ChiPACC legislation builds off the efforts of the two implemented CHI PACC programs, and the new name for the model going forward is ChiPACC.

By overcoming barriers to appropriate care for children with life-threatening conditions, CHI PACC allows children and families to pursue curative and traditional hospice, palliative and home care services concurrently. These services are covered under Medicaid and hopefully private insurance will follow suit.

"CHI PACC is an innovative, new model of care for children that allows us to lighten the heavy burden of families." – Michael O. Leavitt, Secretary, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

Currently two states are implementing CHI PACC -- Florida and Colorado -- through CMS waivers. CHI and CMS are working with a growing number of states including California, Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota and others toward development of a CHI PACC waiver. CHI also is working with the U.S. Department of Defense toward development of CHI PACC for military families.

CHI PACC is available to all states and U.S. territories, through Medicaid, by utilizing a CMS waiver. **The ChiPACC legislation will eliminate the need for a waiver although states will still have the option to use the waiver process.**

How will the ChiPACC Legislation benefit you?

- **Children and Families:** Comprehensive, compassionate, coordinated care from the time of diagnosis of a life-threatening condition, with curative care, through bereavement in the most appropriate setting based on family choice. Reimbursement follows the child and family through the health care system.
- **Health care providers:** Will be reimbursed for ChiPACC services for their patients and families.
- **Health care Institutions:** Will be reimbursed for ChiPACC services for their patients and families.

- **Communities:** Will benefit from ChiPACC by decreasing dysfunction within families and in society, allowing families to continue productive lives at school, work, and in their communities.
- **Federal & State Medicaid:** ChiPACC is cost effective -- uses funds currently in the system in a more effective, cost saving manner

We hope that you will join us in supporting this important legislation!

Ongoing technical assistance, and education and training are available for ChiPACC through CHI and CMS.

We look forward to working with you as, together, we provide better care for our children and families.

With heartfelt gratitude in loving memory of Mattie Stepanek and Melinda Lawrence and all the children and families who will benefit from ChiPACC and who reap the rewards of all of your hard work.

Ann