

## Call to Action

AAHPM is issuing a “Call to Action” to our members to identify a U.S. Senator willing to co-sponsor a bill to establish the Palliative Medicine Career Award with Senator Ron Wyden (D- Oregon).

AAHPM has a strong desire to promote efforts that will result in increases in the number of faculty and residency opportunities in hospice and palliative medicine. Since the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) has now recognized hospice and palliative medicine as a subspecialty, AAHPM is seeking additional opportunities to recognize the specialty.

We are seeking the establishment of Palliative Medicine Career Awards, modeled after the Geriatric Career Award (GACA) Program, which was established by Congress in 1998 to provide federal funds to support the career development of geriatricians who are committed to an academic teaching career. GACA provides monetary awards directly to individual physicians in junior faculty positions. The recipients must establish a relationship with a teaching institution that supports a career development plan and efforts to provide leadership as a teacher of geriatric care.

Senator Ron Wyden (D- Oregon) has introduced legislation that, if passed, would have directed the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a program to provide hospice and palliative care academic career awards to eligible individuals. This bill was introduced in both the 108th and 109th Congressional sessions, but unfortunately, received no support.

We are working now to reintroduce this legislation in the 110th Congress. AAHPM President Cameron Muir met with Senator Wyden earlier this year to discuss reintroduction of this bill. Senator Wyden said he is willing to sponsor this legislation, but asks AAHPM to identify a Republican Senator willing to join him as a co-sponsor.

AAHPM’s Washington representative Judi Buckelew has identified Republican Senators who have expressed interest in hospice and palliative medicine issues in the recent past: Senators Michael Enzi (Wyoming); Lamar Alexander (Tennessee); Orrin Hatch (Utah); Pat Roberts (Kansas); Wayne Allard (Colorado); Susan Collins (Maine); Johnny Isakson (Georgia); Sam Brownback (Kansas); Norm Coleman (Minnesota) and Gordon Smith (Oregon).

If you know one of these Senators or live in any of these states and would be willing to help our efforts to find a co-sponsor, please contact Judi Buckelew at [Judi.Buckalew@ppsv.com](mailto:Judi.Buckalew@ppsv.com). Also, if anyone has a relationship with any other Republican Senator, it would be helpful to have this information as well. Thank you.