AAHPM
American Academy of
Hospice and Palliative Medicine

July 13, 2009

The Honorable Jay Rockefeller
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: S. 1150 — Advance Planning and Compassionate Care Act of 2009

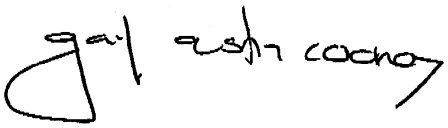
Dear Senator Rockefeller and Senator Collins,

The American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (AAHPM) would like to express its strong support for S. 1150, the Advance Planning and Compassionate Care Act of 2009. AAHPM is the professional organization for physicians specializing in hospice and palliative medicine, and our membership includes nurses and other health care providers committed to improving quality of life for patients facing life-threatening or serious conditions, as well as their families. Hospice and palliative care programs have been shown to improve quality, increase patient and family satisfaction with care, and reduce costs for America's sickest and most medically complex patients.

S. 1150 recognizes the essential need to improve public and provider education in advance care planning and support the research necessary to promote high-quality and efficient care. We applaud the legislation's workforce provisions, in particular the Graduate Medical Education (GME) exemptions, National Service Corps and loan forgiveness. We will also need a dedicated and highly trained teaching faculty to serve a growing population with serious illness. We support the increased provider reimbursement for advance care planning discussions and the focus on quality measurement and research detailed in the legislation. Assuring access to concurrent curative and hospice care for children will help ease the suffering of families facing the most difficult of times. We believe that S. 1150 will help improve care for millions of Americans facing serious illness.

Thank you again for your leadership and commitment to this important element of health care reform. If we can be of help to you, please contact the Academy staff at 847/375-4712, or you may reach Dr. Tuch directly at 727/644-0774.

Sincerely Yours,



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