



August 3, 2010

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer
U.S. House of Representatives
2267 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Blumenauer:

On behalf of the American College of Physicians (ACP), an organization representing 130,000 internal medicine physicians and medical students, I am pleased to express the College's support for the *Personalize Your Care Act of 2010*. This legislation would provide coverage under Medicare for voluntary consultations between doctors and patients to discuss advance care plans. It would also provide states and communities with grants to create or expand programs that assist with advanced care planning.

ACP recognizes that physicians should routinely raise the issue of end of life care planning with competent adult patients during outpatient visits and encourage them to discuss their values and preferences with their surrogates and family members. Physicians and patients should develop a plan that recognizes the patient's views and treatment preferences for their last months and years of life. ACP supports greater recognition and adequate Medicare reimbursement for extended and complex counseling required for physicians to develop end of life care plans for their patients. This legislation will implement these goals supported by ACP to improve end of life patient care.

This legislation is also consistent with the principles of the Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH), also supported by ACP. The PCMH is a team-based model of care led by a personal physician who provides continuous and coordinated care throughout a patient's lifetime to maximize health outcomes. This includes the provision of preventive services, treatment of acute and chronic illness, and assistance with advanced care plans. This model is a valuable asset in advanced care planning since the physician would have the opportunity to develop personal relationships with their patients and families and implement an end of life care plan.

We look forward to working with you to pass this legislation as the Congress considers health care issues.

Sincerely

J. Fred Ralston, MD, FACP
President