



**AMERICAN  
COLLEGE of  
CARDIOLOGY**

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*The mission of the American College  
of Cardiology and the American  
College of Cardiology Foundation  
is to transform cardiovascular care  
and improve heart health.*

August 8, 2017

The Honorable Mark Warner  
United States Senate  
703 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Johnny Isakson  
United States Senate  
131 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer  
US House of Representatives  
1111 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Phil Roe, M.D.  
US House of Representatives  
336 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Warner, Senator Isakson, Congressman Blumenauer, and  
Congressman Roe:

On behalf of the American College of Cardiology, its members, and the patients we serve, I am pleased to offer our support for H.R. 2797/S. 1334, the *Patient Choice and Quality Care Act of 2017*. If enacted, this legislation would provide a patient-centered and quality-focused approach to essential care and treatment of patients with advanced illnesses.

The ACC is the professional home for the entire cardiovascular care team. The mission of the College and its more than 52,000 members is to transform cardiovascular care and to improve heart health. The ACC leads in the formation of health policy, standards and guidelines. The College operates national registries to measure and improve care, offers cardiovascular accreditation to hospitals and institutions, provides professional medical education, disseminates cardiovascular research and bestows credentials upon cardiovascular specialists who meet stringent qualifications.

The ACC is devoted to improving the care and quality of life for patients diagnosed with all serious illnesses. The *Patient Choice and Quality Care Act of 2017* establishes an improved network of patient to clinician communication by establishing a team of healthcare providers to assist and educate patients confronted with advanced illness and facilitate informed decision-making for their care, values, and preferences. Furthermore, H.R. 2797/S. 1334 would provide \$50 million in grant funds for education and training to improve advanced, palliative, and end-of-life care. Additionally, the legislation would require fundamental initiatives to evaluate the quality of advanced care and study approaches to prevent advanced illnesses.

Improving patient care is of utmost importance to the ACC. We commend your bipartisan leadership and look forward to working with you to progress this critical legislation.

Sincerely,

Mary Norine Walsh, MD, FACC  
President