



EMORY
UNIVERSITY

26 May 2015

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

Dear Senator Isakson,

On behalf of Emory University's Woodruff Health Sciences Center, I write to endorse the "Care Planning Act," sponsored by yourself and Senator Mark Warner. I am pleased to share our enthusiastic support for this thoughtfully crafted legislation.

In our experience, quality of care is compromised when patients and families do not have the support that is needed along the advanced illness trajectory, resulting in avoidable suffering. We greatly appreciate your goal of providing advanced care illness coordination services to Medicare beneficiaries. By offering a patient-centered approach that encourages pre-planning for care, we provide every patient with the care that they desire and deserve.

As an institution committed to innovation, Emory believes that we, and other Academic Health Centers (AHCs) like us, can serve as demonstration sites, leading the nation to a better way of addressing the care needs of patients facing the challenges of advanced illness. Emory is excited about the potential AHC-federal partnership to foster new models for care services for those patients experiencing advanced illness.

Finally, we believe that a public information campaign that encourages effective care planning will result in increased satisfaction, as well as significant cost savings. We appreciate your critical role in providing the necessary tools and support to address a problem that too many Georgians are facing.

As this legislation proceeds through the legislative process, please let us know how we can support it further. Thank you.

Sincerely,

S. Wright Caughman, M.D.
Executive Vice President for Health Affairs
CEO, Woodruff Health Sciences Center
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