

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 24, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

We write today to respectfully request that you consider issuing a Presidential Proclamation designating November 2020 as National Hospice and Palliative Care Month.

President Ronald Reagan signed the Medicare Hospice Benefit into law in 1982, and now over 1.5 million Americans are served by hospice annually. As you know, hospice provides expert medical care, pain management, and emotional and spiritual support for those entering the end of life. Hospices operate in all 50 states, and there are over 4,600 Medicare-certified hospices nationwide. Perhaps most importantly, hospice care is available to all Medicare beneficiaries in their homes, and provides care not only for the patient, but also for their families during the illness and after, helping them cope with the grief of losing a loved one. In addition, hospices extend support to the broader community, providing bereavement services for families impacted by local and national crises, such as the opioid overdose epidemic, natural disasters, mass casualty events, and, most recently, the COVID-19 pandemic.

Palliative care is also an interdisciplinary approach to specialized medical and nursing care for people with life-limiting illnesses. Palliative care optimizes quality of life while providing pain and symptom management and psychosocial and spiritual support at any stage of illness.

November was first declared National Hospice and Palliative Care Month in 1978, and President Reagan issued such a proclamation several times during his Presidency. This tradition continued for many years, until the last proclamation in 2010. During our service in Congress we have come to know and appreciate the value that both hospice and palliative care programs provide to our constituents. We hope you will consider recognizing the important role that hospice programs play in the lives of those nearing the end of life by once again proclaiming November National Hospice and Palliative Care Month.

Sincerely,



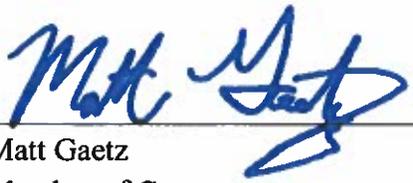
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Debbie Lesko  
Member of Congress



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Andy Biggs  
Member of Congress



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Matt Gaetz  
Member of Congress