



American Cancer Society
Cancer Action Network
5555 Frantz Road
Dublin, Ohio 43017
888.227.6446
www.acscan.org/OH

**Written Testimony of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
Before the House Health & Aging Committee
Regarding HB 470
May 18, 2016**

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network is working as an Interested Party on HB470 with Representative Schuring and applauds his leadership on this bill. We are working at the Federal level, and in states across the country to build capacity for the system of palliative care treatment, especially at the diagnosis stage of chronic diseases such as cancer. HB470 helps update the ORC to reflect needed changes.

Palliative care is specialized medical care that improves quality of life for patients and families by focusing on relief from pain, stress, and other symptoms of treatment for a serious disease such as cancer. It is appropriate at any age and any stage and can be provided alongside curative treatment. It is delivered by trained specialists who work together with doctors and nurses in a team-based approach that focuses on the patients' needs, explains treatment options and gives patients and their families a voice in realizing their treatment goals. **Palliative care treats the person, not just the disease.**

Palliative care programs provide higher-quality care for patients and a better bottom line for hospitals.

An overwhelming majority of doctors (96%) support palliative care. Additionally, once informed about palliative care, 92% of consumers say these services should be available for seriously ill patients and their families.

We are supportive of the sections of HB470 that specifically address palliative care and patient and family services. However, we must remain an "Interested Party" given our policy expertise doesn't extend to all the sections of the bill that address background checks, convicted felons, fees, etc.

We will continue to work with the Sponsor, to enhance this bill with language that would create the Ohio Palliative Care and Quality of Life Interdisciplinary Council and establish the Palliative Care Consumer and Professional Information and Education Program. The charge of such a Council would be to consult with and advise the Director of ODH on matters related to the establishment, maintenance, operation, and evaluation of palliative care initiatives in this state.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on this important policy.