



## **HB 286 Testimony – Phillip Santa-Emma, MD, Medical Director of Hospice and Palliative Care at Mount Carmel Health System – October 3, 2017**

Chairman Arndt, Vice-Chair Pelanda, Ranking Member Howse and members of the House Aging and Long Term Care Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of House Bill 286, which would create the Palliative Care and Quality of Life Interdisciplinary Council and establish the Palliative Care Consumer and Professional Information and Education Program.

My name is Dr. Phil Santa-Emma. I am the medical director for the Mount Carmel Health System Hospice and Palliative Care program. Mount Carmel began providing palliative care in 1997 - one of the first in the United States to offer hospital-based palliative care.

Mount Carmel is one of nine nationwide Palliative Care Centers of Excellence designated as a Palliative Care Leadership Centers (PCLC). These centers provide intensive training and mentoring, helping teams across the country to start new programs, sustain and grow existing programs, or expand into community settings. Mount Carmel has trained more than 175 health systems across the United States.

Our program includes a Palliative Medicine Consultation Service and Acute Palliative Care Units at Mount Carmel East, West and St. Ann's. The Acute Palliative Care Units provide daily palliative care and a forum for treating symptoms, assessing needs and making personal decisions about treatment choices. The Palliative Medicine Consultation Service assesses and treats pain and other symptoms, helps patients and their families determine treatment options, anticipate future healthcare needs and consider the possible course an illness may take.

Mount Carmel's specially trained, interdisciplinary team, which includes board-certified physicians and advanced practice nurses, works closely and collaboratively with patients, families and other healthcare providers to manage chronic disease both inside the hospital and out in the community.

As a physician of 29 years, 20 of which have been spent practicing in hospice and palliative care, I have seen firsthand the positive impact that palliative care has had on patients and families in their time of need. House Bill 286 will help provide information and education to providers, patients and family members about the important role palliative care plays in improving lives. The creation of a Palliative Care Council will also help advance this goal. Therefore, I ask for your favorable consideration of this bill. I am happy to answer any questions you have.