

The Honorable Mark Warner
475 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

October 30, 2013

Dear Senator Warner:

The National Transitions of Care Coalition strongly supports the Care Planning Act of 2013 (S. 1439). This legislation is an important step forward in improving the quality of care provided to patients with advanced illness who are often at highest risks for poor transitions.

As you are aware, patients face significant challenges when moving from one care setting to another within our fragmented health care system. Poor communication during transitions can lead to confusion about the patient's condition and appropriate care, duplicative tests, inconsistent patient monitoring, medication errors, and lack of follow through on referrals. Navigating these transitions can be even more difficult for individuals with serious illness, who may be too frail to communicate effectively for themselves and rely heavily on their care team and family care givers. Furthermore, given the nature of their illness, patients may have multiple providers and move between different care settings more often, which puts these medically complex patients at higher risk for gaps in care due to improper communication between providers and other care givers.

NTOCC supports the Care Planning Act of 2013, which would create a Medicare and Medicaid benefit for patient-centered care planning. This would allow for structured discussions about the patient's illness and goals which will facilitate improved communication during transitions between providers, patients, and family caregivers, which is a key priority for NTOCC.

We applaud your continued efforts to improve patient care and look forward to working with you to advance this important legislation. Please feel free to contact Lindsay Punzenberger, NTOCC's Policy Director, at 202-466-4721 or lpunzenberger@vennstrategies.com, with any questions.

Sincerely,



Cheri Lattimer
Executive Director