



601 Massachusetts Avenue
Suite 520W
Washington, D.C. 20001-6714

February 8, 2024

The Honorable Linda Sánchez
2329 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Representative Sánchez,

On behalf of the National Partnership for Healthcare and Hospice Innovation (NPHI), a member of the Coalition to End Social Isolation & Loneliness (the Coalition), we are writing to express strong support for the recently introduced *Addressing Social Isolation and Loneliness in Older Adults (SILO) Act*. NPHI is a membership organization comprising 100+ not-for-profit, community-integrated hospice, and palliative care providers dedicated to ensuring patients and their families have access to care that reflects their individual goals, values, and preferences. Representing providers from 37 states and the District of Columbia, NPHI and its members help design more innovative and effective models of care, advocate for comprehensive and community-integrated care customized to meet each person's unique needs, and build collaboration between national thought leaders, decision-makers, and other healthcare stakeholders to improve hospice care. We commend you for authoring this critical legislation and we urge Congress to swiftly pass it.

As you know, social isolation and loneliness pose a significant health risk to older adults – one quarter of which are defined as being socially isolated.¹ Due to the transitional nature of the care environment people aged 65 and older often experience, they are far more susceptible to adverse effects of social isolation. So much so that it is associated with a 50% increase in the risk of dementia and other serious illnesses. Perhaps more alarming is the negative effects loneliness has on the overall health of this demographic.² Data has shown that being both elderly and socially isolated is associated with a 50% increase in mortality – rivaling the effects of air pollution, obesity, and excessive alcohol consumption.³

These issues are particularly impactful for advanced illness populations receiving palliative and hospice care who may be devoid of caregiving support, living in a nursing facility, or receiving care in an inpatient hospice unit. Specifically, NPHI and our members are thrilled to see that your legislation takes significant steps towards bringing a stronger sense of community to a historically underserved population, particularly through the funding of area agencies on aging and community-based organizations. This is a population that the healthcare system has historically struggled to reach and these investments will support NPHI member programs' local efforts. Additionally, your bill's emphasis on outreach to at-risk individuals and community-based interventions will hopefully have significant impact on reducing the prevalence of social isolation and loneliness.

“Addressing social isolation and loneliness in older adults is of paramount importance to NPHI,” stated Tom Koutsoumpas, Founder and CEO of NPHI. “NPHI is proud to stand alongside the Coalition to End Social Isolation & Loneliness in support of the SILO Act. We look forward to the positive impact this

¹ National Institutes of Health. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK557972/>

² Centers for Disease Control. [Loneliness and Social Isolation Linked to Serious Health Conditions](#)

³ National Council on Aging. [Navigating Social Isolation and Loneliness as an Older Adult](#)



legislation will have in fostering a stronger sense of community for our nation’s older adults, particularly those in advanced illness populations receiving hospice and palliative care.”

We thank you for your leadership and look forward to working closely with you to ensure the passage of the *Addressing Social Isolation and Loneliness in Older Adults (SILO) Act*, which would represent a necessary step to support the millions of older Americans experiencing significant loneliness and facing social isolation.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to Ethan McChesney (emcchesney@hospiceinnovations.org), NPHI’s Policy Director, with any specific questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Tom Koutsoumpas'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Tom' written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name 'Koutsoumpas'.

Tom Koutsoumpas
Founder and CEO
National Partnership for Healthcare and Hospice Innovation