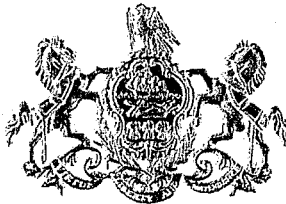


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COSPONSOR MEMO #37

TO: All Senators
FROM: Senator Jane C. Orie
DATE: January 12, 2012
SUBJECT: Patient Comfort Legislation

JAN 13 2012

I will soon be introducing a 2-bill package aimed at expanding access to pain management and palliative care for all patients.

The first bill, the Patient Comfort Act, would create a Patient's Bill of Rights for Palliative Care and Pain Management, including the right for terminally ill patients to be informed by a physician of all available options related to terminal care. The bill would also require the Department of Health to establish a Palliative Care and Pain Management Task Force -- whose purpose would be to help patients gain access to services and propose solutions for addressing gaps in services.

The second bill, an amendment to the MCARE Act, would require physicians and surgeons to take a 12-hour course in pain management and treatment of terminally ill and dying patients as a part of their 100 hour continuing education requirements over the next four years.

The Coalition for Quality at the End of Life has aspired to provide better care for dying patients, particularly in the area of pain management. This legislation is supported by the Jewish Healthcare Foundation.

Please join me in cosponsoring this legislation by contacting Monica Armstrong at 787-6538 or by email at marmstrong@pasen.gov.

JCO/ns