

From: e-Dear Colleague
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2009 4:03 PM
To: E-DEARCOLL_ISSUES_G-Z_0000@ls2.house.gov
Subject: HealthCare: Dear Colleague: Support Critical Care Patients!

Support Critical Care Patients!

From: The Honorable Janice D. Schakowsky Sent By: dana.e.thomas@mail.house.gov Bill: H.R. 1581 Date: 5/19/2009

Join Us in Helping Secure Access to Critical Care Doctors

May 2009

Dear Colleague:

We are writing to invite you to cosponsor H.R. 1581, the **Patient-Focused Critical Care Enhancement Act**. This legislation proposes a package of modest but helpful steps to address the growing shortage of critical care physicians.

A May 2006 Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) report, "The Critical Care Workforce: A Study of the Supply and Demand for Critical Care Physicians," concluded that the projected future demand for critical care services would not be met. To adequately staff intensive care units (ICUs) with critical care doctors, a total of 4,300 intensivist physicians would be needed but only 2,800 are available.

The Patient-Focused Critical Care Enhancement Act would improve the critical care services available today, while expanding the pool of critical care providers. The bill calls for a review of "best practices" for critical care medicine. ***It authorizes demonstration projects in ICU services and family-centered, multi-disciplinary approaches to improve the quality of care delivered and make the best use of existing resources.*** In addition, H.R. 1581 expands telemedicine opportunities for rural communities and medically-underserved areas. Finally, to address the supply problem, this legislation would allow the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) to support and encourage critical care providers to practice in medically-underserved areas.

The Patient-Focused Critical Care Enhancement Act is strongly endorsed by the key medical specialty societies and patient groups involved in critical care medicine, including the American College of Chest Physicians, the American Thoracic Society, the Society for Critical Care Medicine, the Association of Critical Care Nurses and the Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome Foundation.

Please join us in cosponsoring H.R. 1581, the Patient-Focused Critical Care Enhancement Act. To cosponsor, please contact Dana Thomas with Rep. Jan Schakowsky at x52111, dana.e.thomas@mail.house.gov or with Cheryl Jaeger with Rep. Eric Cantor at x52815, cheryl.jaeger@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Rep. Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Rep. Eric Cantor
Member of Congress