

The Palliative Care Law and Policy GPS: **Exploring Legal and Policy Developments in Telehealth**

2023 Arizona Telehealth Policy Summit



Solomon Center
for HEALTH LAW AND POLICY
at Yale Law School

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Former Interim Executive Director

Special Thanks to...

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- **Nina Kohn**, Professor of Law, Syracuse University College of Law; Distinguished Scholar in Elder Law, Yale Law School
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Palliative care is specialized medical care for people with serious illnesses. It is focused on providing patients with relief from the symptoms, pain, and stress of a serious illness – whatever the diagnosis.

Goal: to improve quality of life for both the patient and the family

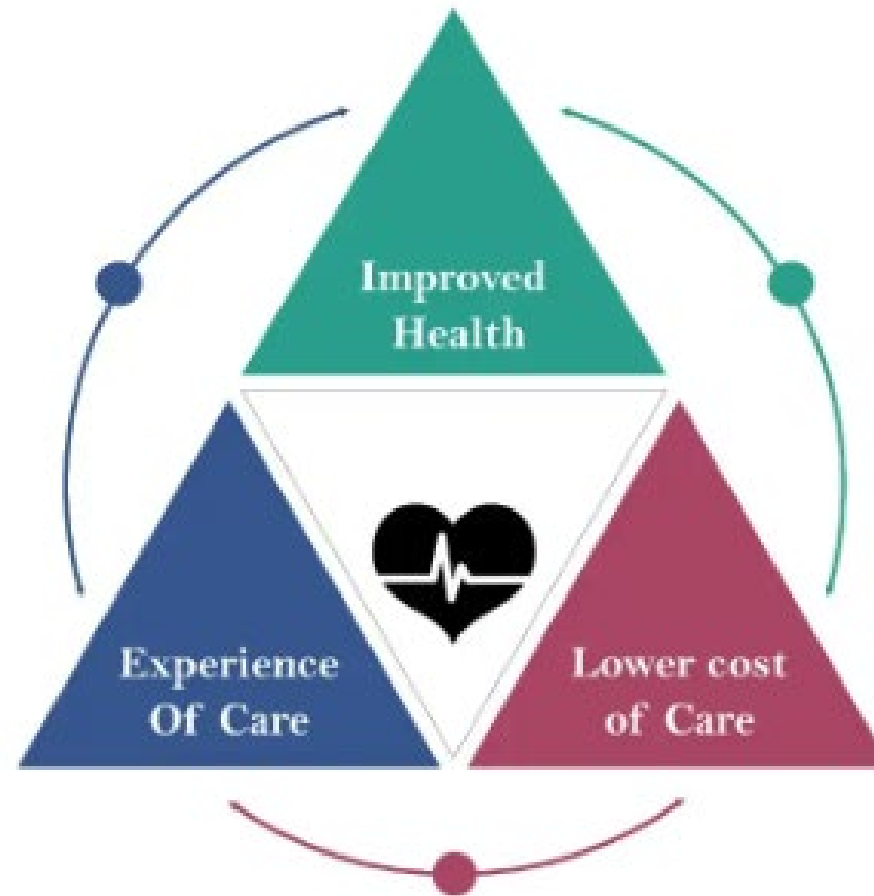
Patient-centered • Life-affirming • Interdisciplinary

Communication • Decision-Making • Continuity of Care • Cost Effective

(National Palliative Care Research Center)

The Importance of Palliative Care

Early, appropriate, and goal-specific treatment leads to improved health outcomes.



When patients are engaged as active and respected members of the care team, their satisfaction and adherence rates increase.

Early assessment and treatment of serious/chronic illnesses results in less spending, a decrease in overutilization, and avoidance of unnecessary hospitalization(s)

Barriers to Palliative Care

Significant workforce shortage

Palliative is a underrecognized/valued specialty and service(s)

Palliative care services not introduced early enough in disease/condition progression

Lack of quality and accessible education and training

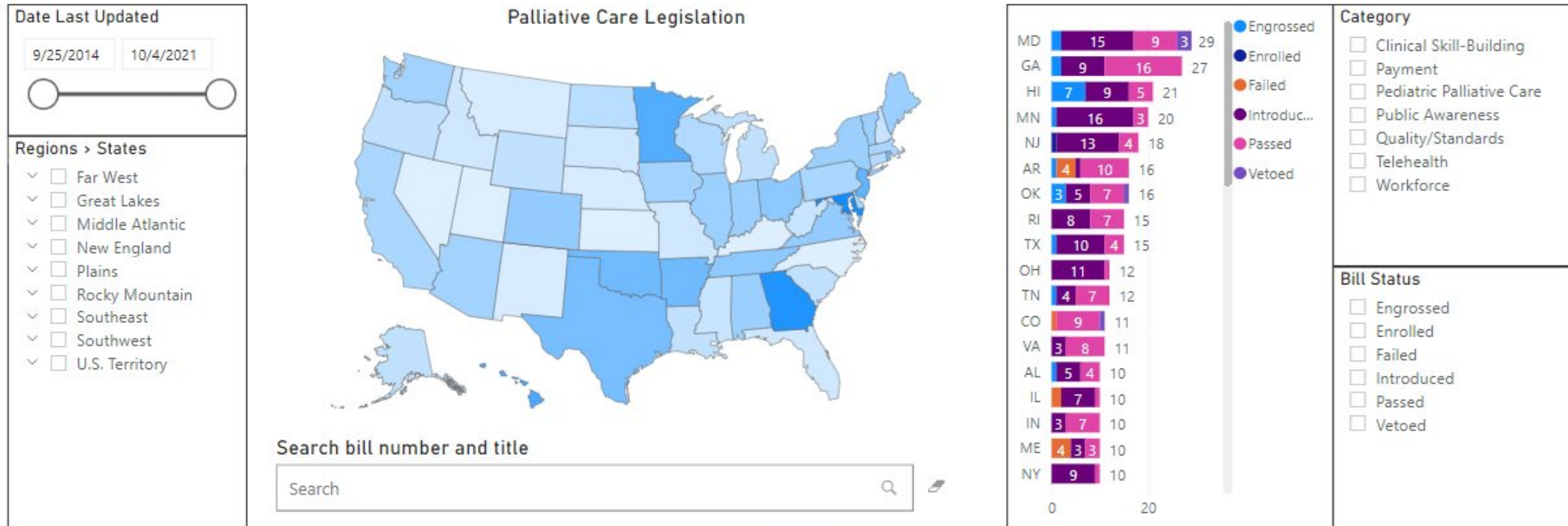
Financial barriers

Geographical and physical access

Scope of practice/licensure restrictions

Increased need for public funding support and room for innovation models

The Palliative Care Law and Policy GPS



California SB353

Passed • Oct 4, 2021 • Quality/Standards

Under the California Hospice Licensure Act of 1990, the State Department of Public Health licenses and regulates persons or agencies that provide hospice, which is a type of interdisciplinary health care that includes palliative care to individuals experiencing the last phases

Oregon HB2981

Passed • Sep 25, 2021 • Payment

This bill requires the Oregon Health Authority to establish and administer program to provide palliative care services and support provision of home- and community-based end of life care.

Alaska HB3009

Introduced • Sep 11, 2021 • Telehealth

This bill makes temporary changes to state law regarding telemedicine and telehealth in response to COVID-19.

Illinois SB2384

Passed • Aug 27, 2021 • Pediatric Palliative Care

This bill amends the Pediatric Palliative Care Act by replacing references to "potentially life-limiting medical condition" with "serious illness" and defining palliative care, among other changes.

Wisconsin AB68

Passed • Jul 8, 2021 • Workforce

Directs DHS to establish minimum rates for home and community-based long-term care supports, create a pilot program of a home care provider registry. Also appropriates funds to long-term care programs.

Rhode Island S0004

Passed • Jul 6, 2021 • Telehealth

This act amends the provisions of the telemedicine coverage act and provides coverage for telemedicine under Rhode Island Medicaid.

Rhode Is

Passed • Ji

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WORKFORCE

Laws and policies that support the growth of a specialty palliative care workforce (e.g., certification programs, loan forgiveness programs).

PAYMENT

Laws and policies that expand financing or provide financing incentives to ensure access to palliative care.

QUALITY/STANDARDS

Laws and policies geared toward developing and meeting quality metrics and standards for palliative care.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

Laws, policies, and organizations that promote public awareness of palliative care (e.g., advisory councils, public health campaigns.)

CLINICAL SKILL-BUILDING

Laws and policies that increase capacity of all healthcare professionals to (1) initiate meaningful communication with patients about what matters most to them, and (2) provide symptom relief, education, and other services to improve quality of life for people living with serious illness (e.g., clinician training in palliative care, continuing education in pain and symptom management, opioid prescribing, communication, family support, etc.).

PEDIATRIC PALLIATIVE CARE

Laws and policies that support the development and expansion of pediatric palliative care (as they relate to access, workforce, quality/standards, clinical skill-building public awareness, etc.).

TELEMEDICINE

Laws and policies that support the expansion of telehealth to allow healthcare delivery of palliative care virtually.

BILL STATUS

Failed

Introduced

Passed

REGIONS & STATES

Middle Atlantic
New England

Plains
Rocky Mountain

Southeast
Southwest

CURRENTLY

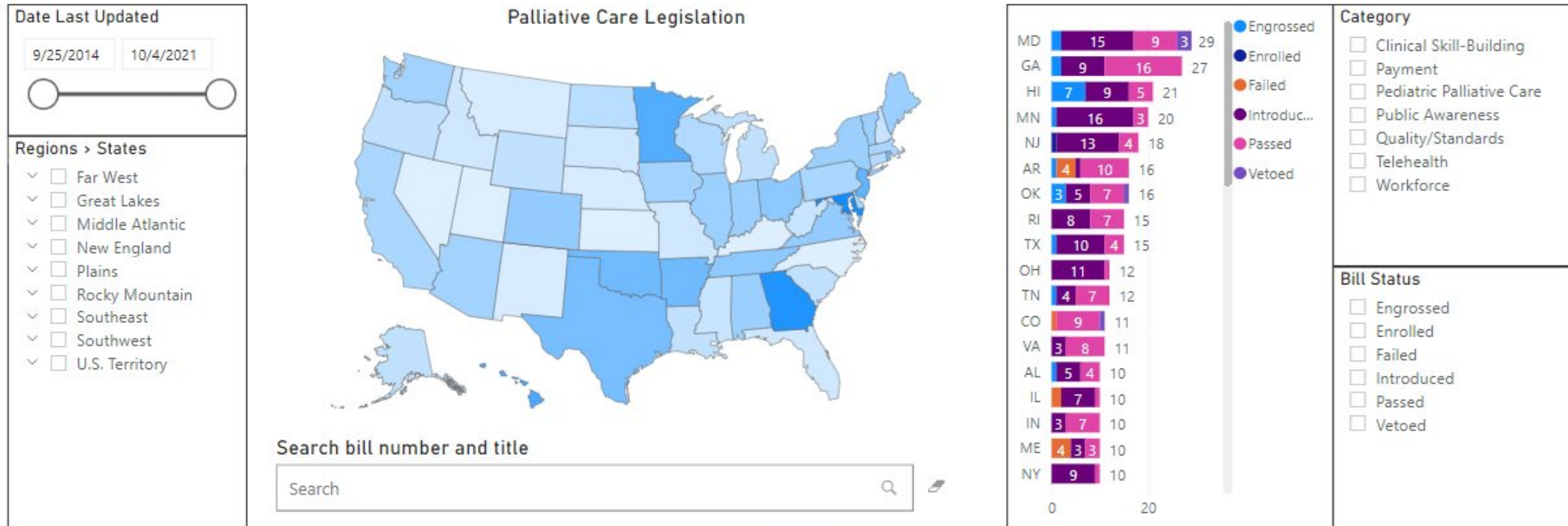
Legislation • 50 States and D.C. • 2014 - 2021
In progress: 2010 - present

FUTURE

Indian Health Service
U.S. Territories

Regulations (state)
Legislation/Regulations (federal)

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Learn More About the Palliative Care GPS



Development of the Palliative Care Law and Policy GPS to Assess National Policies in Palliative Care, *Journal of Palliative Medicine* (forthcoming).



<https://palliativecarelawandpolicy.yale.edu/>



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