

May 7, 2026

The Honorable Linda Sánchez  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2309 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mark Warner  
703 Hart Senate Office Building  
United State Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Sánchez and Senator Warner:

America's Blood Centers (ABC) is proud to express our strong support of H.R. 7966 and S. 4118, the Hospice Care Accountability, Reform, and Enforcement (Hospice CARE) Act of 2026. This important bill will expand access to hospice care for patients who depend on palliative blood transfusions to maintain quality of life.

ABC is the national association representing community-based, independent blood centers. Our member organizations operate more than 700 blood collection sites in more than 1,100 communities providing close to 60 percent of the U.S. blood supply. Collectively, these blood centers serve more than 150 million people and provide blood products and services to more than 3,500 hospitals and healthcare facilities across North America.

Hospice care plays a vital role in supporting patients and families at the end of life. Yet, many patients, such as those with blood cancers, delay or forgo hospice enrollment if they require ongoing blood transfusions for symptom management and quality of life. Although the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has explicitly recognized the ability of hospice providers to cover palliative blood transfusions, there are very few hospice programs that do so. The primary barrier is that the current Medicare hospice per-diem is insufficient to cover the cost of palliative transfusions. As a result, patients who depend on blood transfusions choose not to enroll in hospice in order to continue to receive these essential services.

Delayed hospice enrollment is associated with poorer end-of-life outcomes, including increased emergency room visits and hospital admissions in the final 30 days of life. These patients are also significantly more likely to die in the hospital or intensive care unit. For transfusion-dependent patients who do not meaningfully utilize hospice, Medicare costs in the last month of life are substantially higher, (\$17,783 vs \$7,662), while overall quality-of-life measures decline.

The Hospice Care Act would allow for separate reimbursement outside of the hospice bundled rate to better reflect the cost of blood transfusions in a hospice setting. By addressing this payment barrier, the bill would expand the availability of blood transfusions within the Medicare hospice benefit and enable patients and their families who rely on blood transfusions to fully access hospice services without sacrificing quality of life.

Page 2  
May 7, 2026

ABC thanks Senator Warner, Representative Sanchez, and their staff for their leadership in introducing this important legislation. Should we be of assistance, please contact Susan Leppke, Vice President of Government Relations and Public Affairs at [sleppke@americasblood.org](mailto:sleppke@americasblood.org).

Sincerely,

Kate Fry

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katherine Fry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'K'.

Chief Executive Officer  
America's Blood Centers