



One Credit Union Way
Randolph, MA 02368
Tel. 781.341.4146 ext. 313
FAX 781.297.7345
www.oldcolonyhospice.org

HOSPICE IS PART OF THE SOLUTION

Dear Editor,

There's a lot about health care reform in the news these days. President Obama's call for an overhaul of our nation's health care system has triggered a national debate on what works and what doesn't, including how Medicare dollars are spent. It seems like an appropriate time to highlight a part of our health care sector that works, specifically hospice care.

Hospice is part of the solution for patients and families, and as a model of cost-efficient and high-quality health care. These programs provide invaluable services and care by enhancing the quality of life for the terminally ill, and by keeping them in the place that they consider home. In addition, hospice is actually a cost saver for Medicare. A 2007 independent Duke University study found that it reduced Medicare costs by \$2,300 per patient, amounting to \$2 billion in savings a year.

Hospice has also been found to be the kind of high-quality care that patients and families want, with more than 98% of served families willing to recommend hospice to others. Last year, more than 1.4 million patients and their family caregivers chose the compassionate end-of-life care found through hospice. No one ever wants to face the end of life, but when there, it is so beneficial to have faith and trust in someone with experience, comfort and compassion who can share the journey. And for patients and families of Old Colony Hospice, they never receive a bill.

This health care debate will be with us for some time, so it's important to know what works. Hospice is part of the solution. Old Colony Hospice has been part of the solution for our 43 surrounding communities for 3 decades. We need your advocacy and support to continue our mission.

Sincerely,

Catherine M. Congo, MPA/HA
President/CEO
Old Colony Hospice
Randolph, Ma.