

I wanted to begin with saying the word “pal” is in palliative care, for at this time in one’s life, a pal is needed, to support our companion in Jesus, someone or a network of pals to be present, perhaps return us to our church, the loving arms of our Saviour and renew our faith. The importance of having palliative care, as opposed to being in a hospital, whether at home, or in a Hospice setting is so important. I lost my paternal grandparents to cancer. I have never fully forgiven my 16 year old self for not being able to care for my grandmother in her last days. The hospital setting was too much and I could not return. Now we also know this setting can be dangerous. We need to protect and care for our loved ones.

Thankfully the knowledge of palliative care and a fight for it’s growth is happening so families and friends can be together through the experience with the proper support networks in place. Councils in the region of Essex donated \$1,200 to the Windsor and Erie Shore Hospice, which began in our area in 1979, offers housing and 47 wellness programs. Many of our councils have made prayer shawls, blankets and quilts for decades. In 2017, 798 were donated providing a warm “hug”, prayers, to wipe tears and be a reminder that someone cares.

Our councils have set up spaces in their homes to think about and pray for palliative care, sat with those dying who would otherwise be alone, educated people about the topic through speakers, distributed information pamphlets and held “12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care”. Many letters postcards and petitions have been sent so our voice is heard. The Essex Region is full of and inspiring pals. For this I am grateful.

Madame President, this respectfully ends my report.

