On Friday evening, Congressman Blumenauer gave opening remarks to a lecture given by Dr. Ira Byock, the Director of Palliative Medicine at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, New Hampshire and a Professor at the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth. Dr. Byock is nationally renowned for his work on end-of-life care. The lecture was part of a series by the Oregon Humanities Center called “Being Human, Human Being.”

Blumenauer introduced Dr. Byock, noting, “We need to ensure that people are empowered to make their own choices about their end-of-life care, that their doctors are in a better position to help their patients have those conversations with them, and that, when the time comes, those choices are honored.”

In the 112th Congress, the Congressman was the sponsor of HR 1589, the Personalize Your Care Act of 2011, and plans to reintroduce the bill in the 113th Congress.