

New York's Campaign for the Medical Aid in Dying Act

This legislation, sponsored by Senator Diane Savino and Assemblymember Amy Paulin, would benefit New Yorkers who are in the final stages of a terminal disease. The law would authorize medical aid in dying for terminally ill adults with less than six months to live who have been determined by two doctors to be mentally capable to make this medical decision. Medical aid in dying gives eligible patients the option to request a prescription for medication they can take to shorten a difficult, painful dying process. One in three people who get this prescription never take it,

but they experience peace of mind knowing they have the option if their suffering becomes unbearable.

The New York Medical Aid in Dying Act is modeled on an Oregon law that has been in effect for nearly 20 years. Similar laws exist in Washington, Vermont, and California, and all are working as intended because of built-in safeguards that protect vulnerable people and ensure that no one can be forced to participate. Colorado has recently authorized medical aid in dying.



See reverse side for 5 reasons why you should support New York's Aid in Dying Act

LEARN MORE, TAKE ACTION!

Sign the petition, find out about events in your area, get a copy of the bill, or learn more about our campaign. Find us at:

 CompassionAndChoices.org/new-york

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FIVE REASONS TO SUPPORT New York's Medical Aid in Dying Act

- 1. Medical aid in dying has been practiced for a combined 30 years in five states** without a single case of abuse or coercion or any criminal or disciplinary charges filed.
- 2. Three out of four New York voters (77%) from across the state agree** that “when a mentally competent adult is dying from a terminal illness that cannot be cured, the adult should be allowed the option to request a prescription for life ending medication from their doctor, and decide whether and when to use that medication to end their suffering in their final stages of dying.”¹
- 3. Aid in dying is patient-centered care.** It empowers patients facing a devastating prognosis. It gives them peace of mind that lets them purposively live out their final weeks or months.
- 4. Studies show that end-of-life care gets better for all patients and their families** in states where aid in dying is authorized. Hospice and palliative care systems grow stronger.
- 5. Aid in dying is entirely optional for both doctors and patients.** No doctor will ever be required to provide it, and eligible patients who secure the prescription medication can decline to ever use it.

ABOUT COMPASSION & CHOICES



Compassion & Choices is the nation's oldest, largest and most active nonprofit working to

improve care and expand options for the end of life. Compassion & Choices advances aid-in-dying laws and protects access to them; develops federal policies that improve end-of-life care; ensures equal access

to all end-of-life medical options for all americans through the courts; educates medical providers about end-of-life care; educates health care consumers and empowers citizens who demand more autonomy in making their end-of-life decisions. Compassion & Choices also has comprehensive resources in English and Spanish for individuals and families planning for the end of life at [CompassionAndChoices.org/eolc](https://www.compassionandchoices.org/eolc).

1.) <https://www.compassionandchoices.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/NY-EPS-Poll-background-10.6.15.pdf>