



SPECIAL FALL ACTION: Help Us Pass Medical Aid-in-Dying Resolutions Near You

In states where medical aid in dying is not currently authorized, Compassion & Choices needs champions to inspire lawmakers to pass local resolutions. In your town, city or county, a resolution sends a clear and powerful message that the community and local officials support medical aid in dying. Passing local resolutions is one of the most impactful strategies in laying the groundwork for statewide legislation.

If you want to pass a local resolution in your community, we can provide you a step-by-step toolkit to guide your efforts. It's fun and engaging work, and a great way to get to know your local officials.

To learn more about this opportunity, contact Sarah Brownstein at volunteer@compassionandchoices.org.

Activity Dates:

Now through February 1

Action:

Take the lead to inspire your local council members to pass a resolution in favor of medical aid in dying

Resources:

- › [Local Resolution Toolkit](#)
- › [Sample Local Resolution](#)

ADVOCATE: Ask Your Elected Officials Where They Stand



Elected officials and those running for public office want to know what's on your mind — and you should find out what's on theirs. Ask your elected officials, as well as candidates in both primary and general elections, about their position on medical aid in dying. Here are three opportunities you might have to engage them:

1. If you are in an area where there is a primary election going on now, ask your candidate if they knock on your door while canvassing.
2. Ask your elected representatives or candidates running for office by phone or email.
3. Schedule a visit at their office or attend a town hall meeting and ask the question there.

Activity Dates:

Ongoing

Action:

Ask your elected officials and candidates for political office where they stand on medical aid in dying.

Resources:

- › [Online Response Form](#)
- › [Ask the Candidates and Elected Officials Palm Card](#)
- › [Advocacy Volunteer Toolkit: Where Do Candidates and Elected Officials Stand on Medical Aid in Dying?](#)

When you have their answer, send us your feedback by using our online form (see "Resources" in the box above) to let us know where your elected official or candidate stands.

EDUCATE: Holiday House Party and Fundraiser



'Tis the season for bringing together family and friends, and what better way to connect with your loved ones than by supporting a cause you care deeply about? Consider taking time at holiday parties to educate others about end-of-life options and get them engaged in our movement. You might even consider hosting a Compassion & Choices house party this holiday season.

A Compassion & Choices fundraising party has two goals: First, to educate new and existing supporters on end-of-life issues and second, to raise critical funds to power Compassion & Choices' efforts. As the host, you can inspire your guests by showcasing Compassion & Choices' work and how it's making an impact nationwide. By sharing this important information you are likely to spark the generosity of your guests which could be the first in a series of actions in support of Compassion & Choices.

Activity Dates:

Now through January 1, 2018

Action:

Integrate Compassion & Choices fundraising into your parties and gatherings this holiday season.

Resources:

- › [House Party Host Handbook](#)
- › [House Party Templates](#)
- › [Collecting Donations: Simplify the donation process at your house party by leaving your computer or tablet opened to this page so that your guests can donate quickly and easily online!](#)
- › [Receiving Compassion & Choices Literature: It's as simple as asking your Compassion & Choices staff contact \(two to three weeks prior to your party\), and you shall receive!](#)

SUPPORT: Let's Build Our Base!



With the legislative season upon us, it's a great time to grow our Action Team ranks. As an Action Team member, will you accept the challenge of recruiting two new volunteers? If you live in an area without an Action Team, join forces with a couple of friends and start your own — we can help! Holding a meet and greet to collect petition signatures in support of medical aid in dying or a screening of the award-winning documentary "How to Die in Oregon" are great ways inspire folks who are new to the movement. Make sure all new recruits sign up to volunteer at CompassionAndChoices.org/volunteer, and let's get moving together!

Activity Dates:
Ongoing

Action:

Recruit new members to join your Action Team or reach out to supportive community members to start your own Action Team.

Resources:

- › [Volunteer Sign-up Page](#)
- › [Action Team FAQ Web Page](#)

NEWS + RESOURCES

Recent News Articles

- » **November 14:** Amherst Becomes 4th Jurisdiction in Massachusetts to Endorse Medical Aid in Dying
- » **November 10:** ABC NewsRadio Australia interviews with chief prom officer Kim Callinan and volunteer advocate Mike Scott about about Australian bill similar to the Oregon model.
- » **November 3:** Compassion & Choices staff attorney Jonathan Patterson is quoted by NPR News when asking the question, "Should Patients With Dementia Be Able To Decline Spoon-Feeding?"
- » **November 3:** U.S. News & World Report consults chief program officer, Kim Callinan, in story titled, "What's Really Involved in Physician-Assisted Death?"
- » **October 27:** The Oregonian covers the 20th anniversary of the Oregon Death with Dignity Act featuring interviews with National

Medical Director Dr. David Grube and volunteer advocate Pam Wald, whose husband, Ben Wald utilized law in 2012 with Dr. Grube's help.

- » **October 19:** Compassion & Choices Massachusetts campaign manager, Marie Manis, and terminally ill Massachusetts plaintiff Dr. Roger Kligler are interviewed by The Take on NECN Boston.
- » **September 20:** Baltimore/D.C. area Afro newspaper publishes Compassion & Choices' Donna Smith's op-ed, "Why We Must Fight the Effort to Repeal D.C.'s Death with Dignity Act."
- » **September 11:** The Brownsville Herald publishes Compassion and Choices' Patricia Portillo's op-ed "Final Planning is Crucial" (in English and Spanish) about the importance of end-of-life conversations among Latinos.

Resources for Volunteers

- » [Volunteer Orientation Video Presentation](#) This comprehensive orientation presentation for new volunteers gives an overview of Compassion & Choices' work to authorize and implement medical aid-in-dying laws in all 50 states, and provides volunteers with the next steps they can take to join in these efforts.
- » Compassion & Choices has released updated fact sheets. Use these for your own talking points and to share with others in your outreach and advocacy efforts:
 - › [The Facts About Medical Aid in Dying](#)
 - › [Medical Aid in Dying is Not Assisted Suicide](#)

Click the titles to go to the news stories in this section.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY LISTING

Compassion & Choices is always looking to expand its base of hard-working, dedicated volunteers. If you are interested in any of these volunteer positions, please send your resume or bio and, if applicable, coding language proficiencies to volunteer@CompassionAndChoices.org.

Compassion & Choices needs Action Teams in every state and that means we need ...

LEADERS LIKE YOU



Step up and lead a Compassion & Choices volunteer Action Team!



We need your help! We're looking for an **illustrator** or **photographer** to help with media projects!



Compassion & Choices is looking for **researchers** to help with policy projects.



We are looking for **physicians!** Join our volunteer ranks to help with our medical aid-in-dying advocacy and implementation efforts.