



Religious leaders from several faith traditions speaking at the first-ever New York faith gathering in February.

SPECIAL SPRING ACTION: Help Authorize Medical Aid in Dying in New York!

Lawmakers in New York introduced the Medical Aid in Dying Act in January 2017. Modeled after laws in California and Oregon, it would allow a terminally ill, mentally capable adult with a prognosis of six months or less to access medical aid in dying. Legislators have a two year legislative session to make this bill law in New York.

With your help, we could make New York the next jurisdiction to authorize aid in dying, allowing 1 in 5 Americans access to this vital end-of-life option. Recently, vocal opponents lined the halls of the New York State Capitol to demonstrate their opposition the legislation. It's time for lawmakers to hear the voices of the 77 percent of New Yorkers who support the option to choose medical aid in dying.

Compassion & Choices NY will host a Lobby Day on May 9 where our supporters will converge on the Capitol, visible in their yellow shirts, to tell lawmakers to pass the Medical Aid in Dying Act. And as the third most populous state in the union, progress in New York pushes our whole movement forward.

Every Compassion & Choices supporter in every state can help us mobilize to win! If you are in New York, please join us in Albany and register for Lobby Day. If you live outside of New York, you can help by joining our volunteer phone bank and calling Compassion & Choices supporters in New York to invite them to Lobby Day in Albany on May 9.

Program Track:
Medical Aid in Dying Authorization

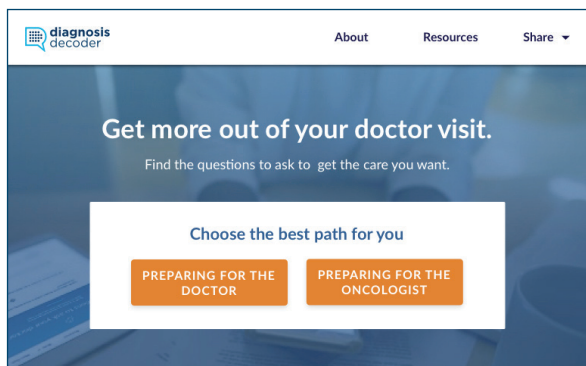
Activity Dates:
Through May 9

Action:
Invite New Yorkers to attend Compassion & Choices' Lobby Day in Albany on May 9th:
10:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Third Floor Landing on the Senate Side, New York State Capitol State St. and Washington Ave Albany, NY 12224

Resources:

- › To join us in Albany on May 9, [RSVP here](#).
- › To volunteer phone bank and invite Compassion & Choices supporters to Lobby Day, contact Amanda Cavanaugh at acavanaugh@CompassionAndChoices.org.
- › Learn more about [the movement in NY](#).
- › Read the [Basic Lobbying Toolkit](#).

SUPPORT: Create a List of Questions for Your Next Doctor's Visit



Diagnosis Decoder Website

helps patients ask the right questions and receive clearer information so they can make fully informed treatment decisions. Asking the right questions gives doctors permission to talk about the benefits and burdens of different tests and treatments — and to outline all options for the patient.

Visit DiagnosisDecoder.org to see our brand new tool, developed to create a customized set of questions to help you navigate your next doctor's appointment. The Diagnosis Decoder™ is the second personal advocacy tool released by Compassion & Choices' Truth in Treatment™ initiative.

The Diagnosis Decoder

Program Track:
Truth in Treatment™

Activity Dates:
Until July 31

Action:

Visit DiagnosisDecoder.org to create a customized set of questions for your next doctor's appointment. Then share your story about using the tool at TruthInTreatment.org.

Resources:

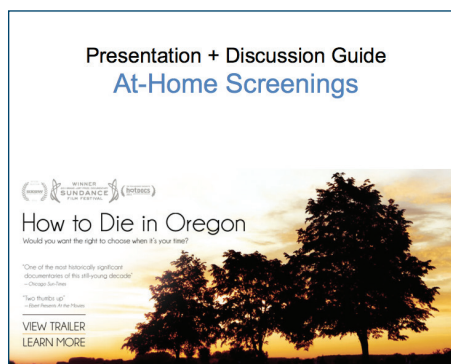
- › DiagnosisDecoder.org
- › TruthInTreatment.org
- › Learn more with the [Truth in Treatment Handbook](#).

ADVOCATE: Recruit New Volunteers!



The House Party Host Handbook

One of the most effective things we can do right now is expand our volunteer base across the country. If you live in a state where there aren't any Action Teams, consider stepping



"How to Die in Oregon" Home Screening

up or joining with others to lead a local Action Team. If you're part of an Action Team, focus on recruiting new members.

There are numerous ways to recruit new supporters, but the most effective is by face-to-face conversations. Start your recruiting efforts by inviting members of your networks who, like you, want to do something relevant

Program Track:
All Tracks

Activity Dates:
Until July 31

Action:

Recruit new volunteers and hold an informational gathering to get them engaged.

Resources:

- › [House Party Host Handbook](#)
- › [House Party Templates](#)
- › ["How to Die in Oregon" Home Screening](#)

and meaningful. Host a fun cocktail hour with the purpose of introducing your new recruits to one another and to the end-of-life options movement. Consider showing "How to Die in Oregon" or giving a presentation about our work. Make it fun and engaging!

EDUCATE: Bring a Friend to the Next Volunteer Brownbag Presentation

As some legislative sessions begin to come to a close, it's time to hone your skills as volunteers. One of the best ways for you to strengthen your volunteer skills and stay current on the medical aid-in-dying movement is by participating in the National Volunteer Brownbag series. On the first Wednesday of every month at 3pm EST/12pm PST, the volunteer

program holds a free educational webinar for volunteers that features leaders in the end-of-life care movement talking about important and timely topics and sharing advocacy best practices. Keep your eyes peeled for an email invitation to RSVP for the next Brownbag webinar, and invite a friend to join in the fun!



Program Track:

Truth in Treatment™

Medical Aid in Dying Authorization
Medical Aid in Dying Implementation

Activity Dates:

May 3, June 7, July 5

Action:

Participate in the next three Volunteer Brownbag series presentations and invite a different friend to join you each time.

Resources:

- › [Volunteer Resource Center](#)
- › To receive an invitation, make sure you and your friend are [signed up to volunteer](#) with Compassion & Choices.

NEWS + RESOURCES

Recent News Articles

- » **U.S. News & World Report:** "[Fewer Than 1,000 Used Oregon's Right-to-Die Law by 2015](#)"
- » **The Denver Post:** "[Federal threats to Colorado's aid-in-dying law](#)" an op-ed by Barbara Coombs Lee
- » **The Baltimore Sun:** "[Diane Rehm: My husband 'suffered through a needlessly agonizing, prolonged dying process'](#)"
- » **People:** "[Inside a Terminally Ill Man's Decision to Die and His Emotional 'Going Away' Parties with Friends and Family](#)"
- » **Kaiser Health News:** "[Right-To-Die Fight Hits National Stage](#)"
- » **The New York Times:** "[Physician Aid in Dying Gains Acceptance in the U.S.](#)"
- » **Honolulu Star Advertiser:** "[Cancer-stricken lobbyist Radcliffe files right-to-die suit](#)"
- » **NPR:** "[Desmond Tutu Joins Advocates To Call For Right To Assisted Death](#)"

Resources for Volunteers

- » The newest personal advocacy tool created through Truth in Treatment™ is now live! The release of the Diagnosis Decoder™ marks the next big step in our roll out of Truth in Treatment, and we have updated the Truth in Treatment Program Handbook to incorporate information about this great tool!

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



TRAININGS + EVENTS

“The Power of Public Speaking to Build Your Base”

By Matt Whitaker
California & Oregon State Director

Brownbag Series
May 3rd; 3pm EST/12pm PST

Matt Whitaker will talk about the power of public speaking not only to educate and raise awareness, but to move people

to actively participate in the end-of-life options movement. He will talk about what we can accomplish through local presentations about medical aid in dying, and will provide tried and true public speaking tips and best practices.

To listen to recordings of previous sessions [click here](#).



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.



Who among you are savvy **website developers**? Join our volunteer ranks to help with website refresh projects!