



## BUILD: Grow Our Ranks by Recruiting New Volunteers From Your Extended Network

One of the easiest ways to help power our work is to recruit new advocates — people like you who support the option of medical aid in dying, are current in their knowledge about end-of-life topics and want to help. That's where your personal network comes in! Talk with your friends, family and neighbors about Compassion & Choices' work, share our [volunteer sign-up page](#) and encourage them to get involved.

Tabling or hosting a booth at a summer event is a great way for you to engage your extended network and community. Farmers markets are a good place to start, as you are likely to engage people you know personally. If you're feeling more ambitious, host a booth at a county fair or other local expo. Or organize a free community film screening or discussion event where attendees will learn more about Compassion & Choices' work. In each of these scenarios, you can increase C&C's impact and reach by collecting petition signatures and sign-ups for our mailing list. To the right are a list of resources to help you accomplish these actions including sign-up sheets, petitions and toolkits to walk you through a successful event. Have fun out there!

**Activity Dates:**  
All Summer!

**Action:**  
Grow volunteer ranks and introduce your extended network to Compassion & Choices' work.

**Resources:**

- › [Volunteer Sign-Up Page](#)
- › [Petitions, Tabling and Canvassing Toolkit](#)
- › [How to Die in Oregon Screening Toolkit](#)
- › [Petition](#)
- › [Sign-In Sheet](#)

# PROTECT: The California End of Life Option Act and Medical Aid in Dying Are Under Attack. Help Us Protect Them, No Matter Where You Live

As you likely know, a Riverside County judge has declared California's landmark End of Life Option Act unconstitutional, rendering the law inaccessible. Compassion & Choices and our allies are working nonstop to restore it. On May 24, Riverside County Superior Court Judge Daniel A. Ottolia filed the judgment in the two-year-old lawsuit *Ahn vs. Hestrin*. Judge Ottolia's judgment invalidated the California End of Life Option Act that authorizes medical aid in dying in the state.

On May 29, Compassion & Choices filed a motion on behalf of a physician and two terminally ill Californians urging the judge to vacate his decision. California Attorney General Xavier Becerra also filed a separate motion the same day to reverse the judgment on different grounds. The judge scheduled a hearing on June 29 to consider the attorney general's motion but denied ours. Since then, we have filed a notice of appeal of the lower court's rulings, including the rejection of our motion to vacate the ruling.

Tragically, for now, unless another court ruling reverses and suspends this judgment, physicians are no longer explicitly authorized to write prescriptions for aid-in-dying medication under the law. Help Compassion & Choices protect the California End of Life Option Act today.

## Activity Dates:

Now — ongoing

## Action:

Whether you live in California or elsewhere in the nation, you can help protect the End of Life Option Act. Click on the links in the resources to see what you can do, and share these tools with your friends and family. Healthcare providers, caregivers and people with advanced illness are especially strong voices in this fight.

## Resources:

- › [Tools for California Residents](#)
- › [Tools for Non-California Residents](#)
- › [Tools for Healthcare Providers](#)

Share support for the California End of Life Option Act in your social media posts with the hashtags **#Compassion4CA** (nationwide) and **#IWantTheOptionCA** (for CA residents).



Supporters at a 2015 rally to encourage lawmakers to pass the California law



## PARTICIPATE: Take Action on the Ground and Be a Voice for the Medical Aid-in-Dying Movement This Election Cycle!



Supporters at a recent hearing in Albany, NY

Candidates across the country are hitting the campaign trail for the 2018 midterm elections in what will be some of the most closely watched races in recent history. This campaign season will provide you many opportunities to ask candidates and elected officials where they stand on medical aid in dying.

Not only is this a chance for you to identify where a candidate stands on the issue, but you may even have a chance to educate them on the importance of full end-of-life options by asking smart, informed questions. From now until election day in

### Activity Dates:

Now through December

### Action:

Attend candidate forums, telephone town halls, in-person town halls and other campaign events to help determine where they stand on end-of-life issues.

### Resources:

- › [Where Do Candidates and Elected Officials Stand on Medical Aid in Dying?](#)
- › [Volunteer Orientation Training Video](#)

November, there will be candidate forums, telephone town halls, in-person town halls, meet and greets and many other practical and timely chances to meet your candidates and elected officials.

## GROW: Increase Our Support Among Physicians by Encouraging Your Doctor(s) and Physicians You Know Personally to Join Doctors for Dignity

Today, 10 state medical associations, representing tens of thousands of physicians, have taken a neutral position on medical aid in dying, a huge increase from just a few years ago. The growing acceptance illustrates a shift in the way the medical community understands end-of-life care and patient choice. In fact, recent polling shows that [physicians support medical aid in dying](#) by a 2:1 margin.

Does your doctor support medical aid in dying? Would they like to join our Doctors for Dignity program? What about physicians you know personally? The best way to find out is to ask and share our resources with them with your strong endorsement! You can share the link to the Doctors for Dignity web page, print out and share the [Answering Physicians' End-of-Life Questions flyer](#), and encourage them to call our Doc2Doc consultation line with any questions about providing medical aid in dying. Start a dialogue with your doctor the next time you have a chance and keep it going with help from Compassion & Choices volunteer resources.

### Activity Dates:

Now — ongoing

### Action:

Talk to your doctor and other physicians about where they stand on medical aid in dying, share literature and the Doctors for Dignity web page, and encourage them to call the Doc2Doc consultation line at 800.247.7421 with any questions.

### Resources:

- › [Doctors for Dignity Web Page](#)
- › [How to Talk to Your Doctor About Your End-of-Life Options Fact Sheet](#)
- › [Answering Physicians' End-of-Life Questions](#)
- › [CompassionAndChoices.org/ask-your-doctor](#)

## DIAL: Join the On-Call Phone Bank Team!

The advocacy and field work we do often includes a phone bank to reach out to our list. The On-Call Phone Bank Team helps call supporters in key states or districts to encourage them to take action. You may be calling Compassion & Choices supporters in New York state to ask them to contact a target legislator. Maybe it's calling supporters in California to encourage them to attend an upcoming hearing.

As these projects come and go, you can help as much or little as your schedule allows. Our goal is to have a stable of ready phone bankers that can be put on a project with a short turnaround time. Phone banking is how we find some of the most amazing stories and volunteers! Please email us at [volunteer@CompassionAndChoices.org](mailto:volunteer@CompassionAndChoices.org) to join the On-Call Phone Bank Team.

**Activity Dates:**  
Ongoing

**Action:**  
Let Amy Hetzler, National Volunteer Program Manager, know you will join the phone bank team for on-call projects by emailing [volunteer@compassionandchoices.org](mailto:volunteer@compassionandchoices.org) and complete the agreements in the resources section to be eligible.

**Resources:**  
› [Volunteer Media Policy](#)  
› [Confidentiality Agreement](#)



## 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](mailto: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 seeking **storytellers** to draw attention to our work across the nation!