



2017-2018 Elections & Medical Aid in Dying

A Politically Safe Issue to Run On



Care and Choice at the End of Life

Compassion & Choices is the nation's oldest, largest and most active nonprofit working to improve care, expand options and empower everyone to chart their end-of-life journey.

Introduction


In 2014 when Brittany Maynard partnered with Compassion & Choices and shared her story, it catapulted the end-of-life care options movement into the national limelight. Since then, the movement has enjoyed unprecedented progress authorizing four new jurisdictions in just three years — California in 2015, Colorado in 2016, Washington, D.C., in 2017 and Hawai'i in 2018. Our momentum is self-evident. In contrast, it took 19 years between the first four victories — Oregon in 1994, Washington in 2008, Montana in 2009 and Vermont in 2013.

During 2017 and 2018 more than 125 lawmakers across 28 states sponsored legislation to authorize medical aid in dying as an option for mentally capable, terminally ill adults with six months or less to live to peacefully end their suffering if it becomes unbearable. The 2018 election cycle marked the first opportunity for voters to weigh in on the actions of these bill sponsors. And the voters spoke clearly. The vast majority of the legislators who served as primary bill sponsors for medical aid in dying who sought re-election were re-elected. With widespread public support for end-of-life autonomy (see page 6), more state legislators will respond to the preferences of their constituents and cast their support for this compassionate end-of-life care option.

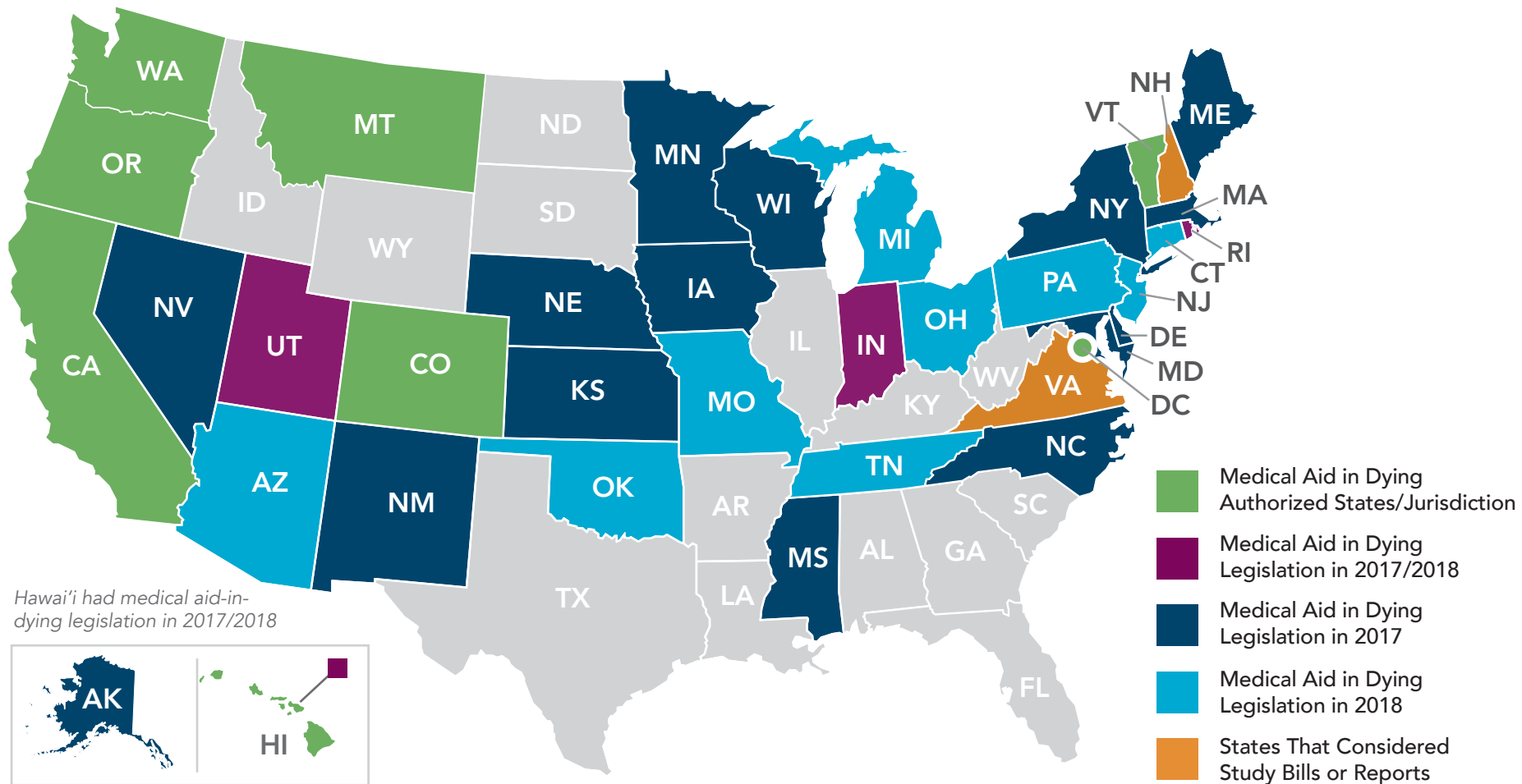
-
- 2018 ● HAWAII by legislation
 - 2017 ● DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA by legislation
 - 2016 ● COLORADO by ballot initiative
 - 2015 ● CALIFORNIA by legislation
 - 2013 ● VERMONT by legislation
 - 2009 ● MONTANA by court ruling
 - 2008 ● WASHINGTON by ballot initiative
 - 1994 ● OREGON by ballot initiative

End-of-Life Choice & the 2018 Elections

- » The end-of-life care options movement is growing strong. Seven states plus Washington, D.C., have authorized medical aid in dying via ballot initiative, legislation or state Supreme Court ruling. As a result, nearly one in five Americans (19%) currently have access to this peaceful end-of-life care option.
- » Among the 44 states where medical aid in dying was not authorized by the end of 2016, 64 percent of them, or 28 states, introduced legislation in 2017 and/or 2018.




Nearly 1 in 5
Americans currently have access to this peaceful end-of-life care option.



The Vast Majority of Primary Bill Sponsors Earned Their Seats Back

The 2018 election cycle represented the first opportunity for voters to express their approval or disapproval for legislators who carried bills in 2017 or 2018.

- » In 2017 and 2018, 127 state legislators served as primary sponsors of medical aid-in-dying bills introduced in 28 states.
- » The vast majority of all primary bill sponsors who carried end-of-life options legislation won re-election — incumbent bill sponsors had a 93-percent re-election rate in the primary and a 99-percent re-election rate in the general election.



127 state legislators served as primary sponsors of medical aid-in-dying bills introduced in **28** states

Medical Aid-in-Dying Bill Sponsors Earned High Re-Election Rates

	OVERALL	SENATE	HOUSE
Total Primary Senate and House Sponsors	127	43	84*
Total Seeking Re-Election	90	15	75
Total Who Won	83	13	70
Number Who Lost in Primary	6	2	4
Number Who Lost in General	1	0	1
Percentage Re-Election Rate Primary	93%	87%	95%
Percentage Re-Election Rate General	99%	100%	99%
Percentage Re-Election Rate Primary and General	92%	87%	93%

*does not include the Committee Sponsorship for KS bill

Governors Embrace End-of-Life Care Options

Voters elected or re-elected at least six governors who publicly supported medical aid in dying: Gavin Newsom in California, David Ige in Hawai'i, J.B. Pritzker in Illinois, Gretchen Whitmer in Michigan, Michelle Lujan Grisham in New Mexico and Kate Brown in Oregon.

Gov.-elect Gavin Newsom **CALIFORNIA**

"The moments that mark the end of life should be spent beside loved ones in a familiar place, with peace and dignity, and I'm grateful to Senator Wolk and Senator Monning for their leadership on this difficult and important issue," said California Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom. "I support the End of Life Option Act, which offers sensible and humane public policy to an immensely personal decision, and I am reassured by the protections in this legislation for vulnerable patients and doctors alike." [News release from then – Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom announcing his support for the California End of Life Option Act on June 4, 2015.]



Gov. David Ige **HAWAI'I**

"I believe that we have clear safeguards in place. It is time for terminally ill, mentally competent Hawai'i residents who are suffering to make their own end-of-life choices with dignity, grace and peace. I am honored to sign HB 2739 into law, in hopes of giving these patients and their families choices and peace of mind." [Statement by Gov. David Ige at the bill signing ceremony for *The Our Care, Our Choice Act (HB2739)* on April 5, 2018.]

Gov.-elect J.B. Pritzker **ILLINOIS**

"I am in favor of putting this very personal decision in the hands of patients to make in consultation with their doctors." [Response by then-candidate J.B. Pritzker to a question on the Disability Forum's written questionnaire on January 18, 2018, asking whether he supported "assisted suicide."]

Gov.-elect Gretchen Whitmer **MICHIGAN**

In a VoteSmart Facts Matter Candidate Questionnaire from 2004, then-Michigan State Representative Gretchen Whitmer indicated that she supported legalizing "physician-assisted suicide" (the pejorative term for medical aid in dying)."

Gov.-elect Michelle Lujan Grisham **NEW MEXICO**

"I support updating the current prohibition. We should provide patients with humane end-of-life options, including medical aid in dying..." [Response from then U.S. Rep. and gubernatorial candidate Michelle Lujan Grisham to the Albuquerque Journal question, "Do you support or oppose updating the current prohibition in the law on assisted suicide in order to allow aid in dying under certain medical circumstances?"]

Gov. Kate Brown **OREGON**

"Oregonians spoke loud and clear when they passed the nation's first medical aid-in-dying law in 1994. It has contributed to Oregon's status as a leader in hospice and palliative care, and as Governor, I work to uphold the will of our voters and would oppose efforts to repeal this law." [Email statement on Dec. 4, 2018 from Governor Kate Brown's Press Secretary Kate Kondayen]

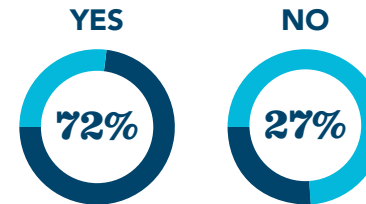


The American Public Overwhelmingly Support Medical Aid in Dying

Americans consistently support medical aid in dying by large majorities, a fact repeatedly confirmed by independent national and state surveys.

Support Overall

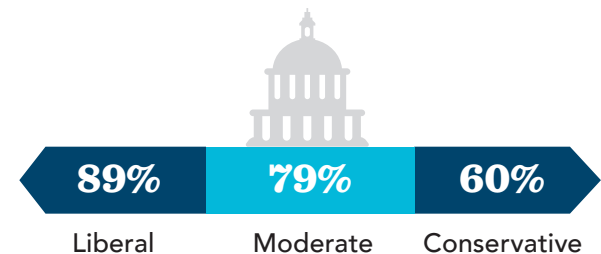
"When a person has a disease that cannot be cured ... doctors should be allowed by law to end the patient's life by some painless means if the patient and his or her family request it." (Gallup Poll, May 2018)



Support Across Different Political Ideologies

"When a person has a disease that cannot be cured ... doctors should be allowed by law to end the patient's life by some painless means if the patient and his or her family request it." (Gallup Poll, May 2017)

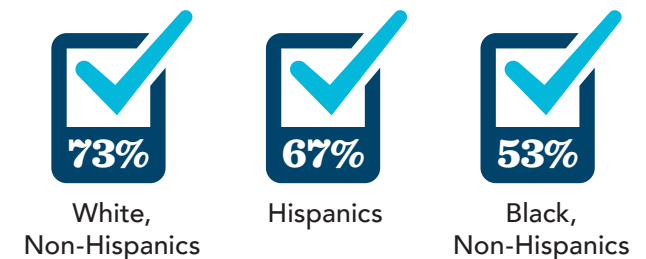
AGREE



Support Across Different Races and Ethnicities

"When a person is facing a terminal disease, it is morally acceptable to ask for a physician's aid in taking his or her own life." (Lifeway Research Survey, September–October 2016)

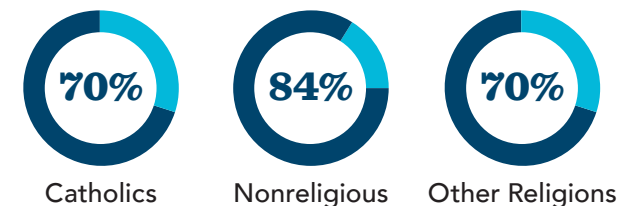
AGREE



Support Across Multiple Religious Affiliations

"When a person is facing a terminal disease, it is morally acceptable to ask for a physician's aid in taking his or her own life." (Lifeway Research Survey, September–October 2016)

AGREE



Election Results Among State Senate and Assembly Medical Aid-in-Dying Bill Sponsors

State	Year of Legislation	Bill Name	Senate			House/Assembly		
			Bill Number	Senate Primary Sponsor	Election Result	Bill Number	House Primary Sponsor	Election Result
Alaska	2017	Voluntary Ending of Life Act	N/A			HB 54	Harriett Drummond	Won
Arizona	2018	Death with Dignity Act	SB 1222	David Bradley	Won	HB2102	Pamela Powers Hannley	Won
			SB 1414	Juan Mendez	Won	HB 2611	Sally Ann Gonzales	Won
Connecticut	2018	An Act Concerning End of Life Care	N/A			HB 05417	Jonathan Steinberg	Won
							Josh Elliott	Won
Delaware	2017	End of Life Options Act	N/A			HB 160	Paul Baumbach	Won
Hawai'i	2017	Patient Choice at the End of Life Act	SB 357	Lorraine Inouye	Won	HB 201	Joseph Souki	Did Not Seek Re-election
				Les Ihara	Seat Not Up		Jarrett Keohokalole	Won
				Karl Rhodes	Seat Not Up		Sylvia Luke	Won
				Russell Ruderman	Seat Not Up		Angus McKelvey	Won
				Glenn Wakai	Seat Not Up		Scott Nishimoto	Won
				Brickwood Galuteria	Lost in Primary		Scott Saiki	Won
				Brian Taniguchi	Seat Not Up		N/A	
	Death with Dignity Act	NA	HB 550	Calvin Say	Won			
	End of Life Option Act	SB 1129	Karl Rhoads	Seat Not Up	HB 150	Gregg Takayama	Won	
	2018	Our Care, Our Choice Act	N/A	SB 2727	Russell Ruderman	Seat Not Up	HB 2739	Della Au Belatti
				Mark Hashem	Won			
						Nicole Lowen		Won
						Sylvia Luke		Won
						Dee Morikawa		Won
						Scott Nishimoto		Won
						Scott Saiki		Won
						Gregg Takayama		Won
						Chris Todd		Won
						HB 2736		John Mizuno
Indiana	2017	End of Life Options Act	SB 273	Lonnie Randolph	Seat Not Up	HB 1561	Matt Pierce	Won
	2018	Medical Aid In Dying Act	N/A			HB 1157		

State	Year of Legislation	Bill Name	Senate			House/Assembly		
			Bill Number	Senate Primary Sponsor	Election Result	Bill Number	House Primary Sponsor	Election Result
Iowa	2017	Iowa End of Life Options Act	SF 215	Joe Bolcom	Won	HF 299	Brian Meyer	Won
				Rich Taylor	Seat Not Up		Vicki Lensing	Won
				Matt McCoy	Seat Not Up		Marti Anderson	Won
			N/A	Cindy Winckler	Won			
				Mary Lynn Wolfe	Won			
				Dennis Cohoon	Won			
				Beth Wessel-Kroeschell	Won			
				Timothy Kancena	Won			
				Mary Mascher	Won			
				Ruth Ann Gaines	Won			
				Sharon Steckman	Won			
				Timi Brown-Powers	Won			
				Rick Olson	Won			
				Liz Bennett	Won			
Amy Neilsen	Won							
Kansas	2017	Kansas Death with Dignity Act	N/A			HB 2120	Committee on HHS	N/A
Maine	2017	An Act to Support Death with Dignity	SP 113 / LD 347	Roger Katz	Did Not Seek Re-election	HP 749 / LD 347	Jennifer Parker	Did Not Seek Re-election
Maryland	2017	Richard E. Israel and Roger "Pip" Moyer End-of-Life Option Act	SB 354	Guy Guzzone	Won	HB0370	Shane Pendergrass	Won
Massachusetts	2017	An Act Relative to End of Life Options	S 1225	Barbara L'Italien	Did Not Seek Re-election	HB 1194	Louis Kafka	Won
Michigan	2018	Death with Dignity Act	N/A			HB 4462	Kevin Hertel	Won
						HB 4661	Pam Farris	Did Not Seek Re-election
							Tom Cochran	Did Not Seek Re-election
Minnesota	2017	End-of-Life Option Act of 2017	SF 1572	Ron Latz	Seat Not Up	HF 1885	Jennifer Schultz	Won
				John Marty	Seat Not Up		John Lesch	Won
				Chris A. Eaton	Seat Not Up		Mike Freiberg	Won
				Matt D. Klein	Seat Not Up		Mike Sundin	Won
				D. Scott Dibble	Seat Not Up		Tina Liebling	Won

State	Year of Legislation	Bill Name	Senate			House/Assembly		
			Bill Number	Senate Primary Sponsor	Election Result	Bill Number	House Primary Sponsor	Election Result
Mississippi	2017	Mississippi Death With Dignity Act	SB 2283	Debbie Dawkins	Seat Not Up	N/A		
				Robert Jackson	Seat Not Up			
Missouri	2018	Death with Dignity Act	N/A			HB 1790	Brandon Ellington	Won
						HB 1319	Steve Roberts	Won
Nebraska	2017	Patient Choice at End of Life Act	LB 450	Ernie Chambers	Seat Not Up	NA		
Nevada	2017	An act relating to public health	SB 261	Ben Kieckhefer	Won	SB 261	Chris Brooks	Won
				Yvanna Cancela	Won		Lesley Cohen	Won
				Tick Segerblom	Won		Maggie Carlton	Won
				Patricia Farley	Did Not Seek Re-election		Shannon Bilbray-Axelrod	Won
				David Parks	Seat Not Up		Steve Yeager	Won
New Jersey	2018	Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Act	S 1072	Nicholas Scutari	Seat Not Up	A 1504	Joe Daniels	Seat Not Up
			N/A	Richard Codey	Seat Not Up		John Burzichelli	Seat Not Up
							Tim Eustace	Did Not Seek Re-election
New Mexico	2017	End of Life Options Act	SB 252	Elizabeth Stefanics	Seat Not Up	HB 171	Deborah Armstrong	Won
			N/A				Bill McCamley	Lost in Primary
New York	2017	Medical Aid in Dying Act	S 3151	Diane Savino	Won	A 2383	Amy Paulin	Won
		Aid in Dying Act	S 2045	John Bonacic	Did Not Seek Re-election	A 3598	Linda Rosenthal	Won
North Carolina	2017	End of Life Option Act	N/A			HB 789	Graig Meyer	Won
							Mary "Pricey" Harrison	Won
							Susan Fisher	Won
Ohio	2018	Aid in Dying Act	SB 249	Charleta Tavares	Did Not Seek Re-election	N/A		
Oklahoma	2018	Death with Dignity Act	N/A			HB 2585	Steve Kouplen	Lost in General
Pennsylvania	2018	Death with Dignity Act	SB 238	Lisa Boscola	Won	N/A		
				Daylin Leach	Seat Not Up			
Rhode Island	2017	Lila Mansfield Sapinsley	S 2443	Gayle Goldin	Won	H 5468	Edith Ajello	Won
	2018	Compassionate Care Act	N/A			H 7297		
Tennessee	2018	Right to Die	SB 1378	Reginald Tate	Lost in Primary	HB 1394	Tim Wirgau	Lost in Primary
Utah	2017	End of Life Options Act	N/A			HB 76	Rebecca Chavez-	Did Not Seek Re-election
	2018					HB 210	Houck	

State	Year of Legislation	Bill Name	Senate			House/Assembly		
			Bill Number	Senate Primary Sponsor	Election Result	Bill Number	House Primary Sponsor	Election Result
Wisconsin	2017	Compassionate Choices Act	SB 312	Tim Carpenter	Won	AB 216	Chris Taylor	Won
				LaTonya Johnson	Seat Not Up		Christine Sinicki	Won
				Fred Risser	Seat Not Up		David Bowen	Won
				Janet Bewley	Won		Dianne Hesselbein	Won
			N/A	Don Vruwink	Won			
				Gordon Hintz	Won			
				Jill Billings	Won			
				Jimmy Anderson	Won			
				Lisa Subeck	Won			
				Mark Spreitzer	Won			
				Melissa Sargent	Won			
				Sondy Pope	Won			
				Terese Berceau	Did Not Seek Re-election			
				Tod Ohnstad	Won			



Care and Choice at the End of Life

CompassionAndChoices.org

800 247 7421

info@CompassionAndChoices.org