



## SPECIAL SUMMER ACTION: Stop Congress From Repealing D.C.'s Death with Dignity Act!

The U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations voted recently for a spending bill containing an amendment that would repeal Washington, D.C.'s, Death with Dignity Act. If a similar amendment were passed in the Senate and the bill moves on, it could inspire opponents to seek a nationwide ban that would also void the existing laws and bills introduced in other states.

This Quarterly Action Bulletin is focused exclusively on what you can do right now to keep this threat from materializing. First and foremost, go right to the source; Visit your U.S. senators' district offices and tell them (or their staff members) face-to-face why you support D.C.'s law and medical aid in dying.

A visit to your U.S. senators' office is one of the most effective ways to demonstrate how important this is to you. Put a face and a story to the issue, and hold them accountable for their actions and votes. Although it's never required that you make an appointment to visit your legislator, if you do, they will be better prepared to speak with you. Be sure to leave a one-pager with them so they have good information in hand, and please let us know how it goes so we can learn from your experience and count your actions as part of the greater movement.

### Program Track:

Medical Aid in Dying Protection  
Medical Aid in Dying Authorization  
Medical Aid in Dying Implementation

### Activity Dates:

Through September 4

### Action:

Visit your senators in their district offices while they are on recess

### Resources:

- › Read the [Basic Lobbying Toolkit](#).
- › [Volunteer Talking Points](#): Use for calling and visiting legislators about the Washington, D.C. threat.
- › [Meeting Request Letter Template](#): Schedule in-district legislative visits with your senator. For Colorado supporters, there is a specific [meeting request letter](#) for Sen. Gardner's office.
- › [Meeting Leave Behind](#): Give this one-pager to the lawmaker or staff member when you visit their office.
- › [Action Tracking Form](#): Report back on actions taken.

## SUPPORT: Put Your Support for D.C.'s Law Down on Paper!



Another great action in the advocacy toolkit is writing to your elected officials. There are distinct advantages to both letters and postcards, so keep them in mind as you decide which one to do. Postcards are quick and easy, and we have a template you can print out on card stock, write, stamp and send. One of the benefits of postcards is that they are not subject to the same inspection as letters in envelopes, so they get to your elected officials quickly. Letters, however, allow you to express yourself more fully, tell your story, and explain the issues in greater detail. Again, we have templates to help you! Choose the format that best suits you, and put pen to paper!

### Program Track:

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### Activity Dates:

Through September 4

### Action:

Write a letter or postcard to your U.S. senators and representatives. Then tell us about it using the Action Tracking Form.

### Resources:

- › Print, stamp and send [postcards](#).
- › [Template letter to U.S. senators in authorized states](#): Customize, print, sign and send this letter to your senators if you live in OR, CO, D.C., VT, WA or CA.
- › [Template letter to U.S. senators in non-authorized states](#): Customize, print, sign and send this letter to your senators if you live in any other state.
- › [Action Tracking Form](#): Report back on actions taken.

## ADVOCATE: Call Our Supporters and Encourage Them to Reach Out to Their Elected Officials!



We need as many people as possible contacting their U.S. senators and representatives to let them know their support for the Washington, D.C., Death with Dignity Act is important to them as voters and they're paying attention. We need you to join our phone banking team to call our supporters and ask them to contact their U.S. senators and representatives. If you are willing to call other supporters, email us at [DCPhoneBank@compassionandchoices.org](mailto:DCPhoneBank@compassionandchoices.org) and let us know. We'll send you a script, a list of people to contact and some phone-banking best practices!



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Medical Aid in Dying Protection  
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### Activity Dates:

Through September 4

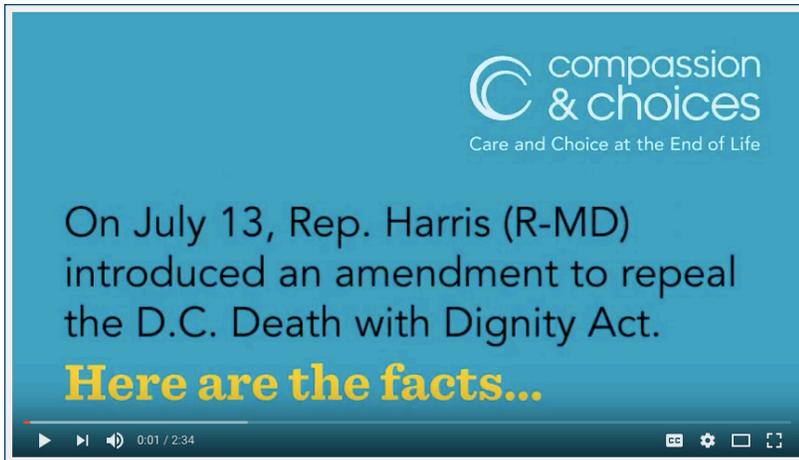
### Action:

Make phone calls to supporters to ask them to contact their elected officials in support of Washington, D.C.'s, medical aid-in-dying law.

### Resources:

Contact [DCPhoneBank@compassionandchoices.org](mailto:DCPhoneBank@compassionandchoices.org) and let us know you're interested in phone banking, and we'll provide you everything you need!

## EDUCATE: Get the Facts and Share Them



It can be difficult to understand the complexities of the federal legislative process and why this is such a big deal. If you're wondering what exactly is going on, what the Harris Amendment is and why it impacts you if you don't live in Washington, D.C., take a few minutes to read the CNN op-ed authored by Kim Callinan, Compassion

& Choices' chief program officer. Then watch the related fact-check video that debunks Rep. Harris' assertions about his amendment that would repeal Washington, D.C.'s, medical aid-in-dying law. Then share these resources widely with your networks using the tips and sample posts we've created for just this purpose!

### Program Track:

Medical Aid in Dying Protection  
Medical Aid in Dying Authorization  
Medical Aid in Dying Implementation

### Activity Dates:

Ongoing

### Action:

Read the CNN op-ed and watch the fact-check video, and then share them with your social media networks.

### Resources:

- › [CNN Op-Ed](#): Share this article with your social media networks.
- › [Fact-Check Video](#): Share this video with your social media networks.
- › [Social Media Tips](#): Check out this guide for using social media to protect D.C.'s law.

## NEWS + RESOURCES

### Recent News Articles

- › [American Society of Aging Generations Magazine: "Medical Aid in Dying: The Cornerstone of Patient-Centered Care"](#)
- › [CBS News \(Associated Press\): "504 terminally ill patients request life-ending drugs in California, group says"](#)
- › [Reuters: "Massachusetts Judge Allows Right-To-Die Lawsuit to Move Forward"](#)
- › [NPR's All Things Considered: "Aid-In-Dying Requires More Than Just A Law, Californians Find"](#)
- › [Yahoo! News: "Will Congress let Mary Klein decide how to die?"](#)
- › [Associated Press: "10 patients got life-ending drugs in Colorado under new law"](#)
- › [The Washington Post: "'Leave us alone!' — D.C. leaders fight congressional efforts to limit their power"](#)
- › [CNN.com: "Congress, get it right for dying Americans"](#)

### Resources for Volunteers

- › We created an [entire webpage with resources](#) to support our work to protect Washington D.C.'s, medical aid-in-dying law! This one-stop shop has everything you need to educate yourself (and others) and take action NOW, including background information, easy online actions, templates and talking points, and our form for reporting your actions back to us.

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](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.



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