Annual Report 2023–2024



Making End-of-Life Care

More Patient-Directed





Vision

A society that affirms life and accepts the inevitability of death, embraces expanded options for compassionate dying and empowers everyone to choose end-of-life care that reflects their values, priorities and beliefs.

Mission

Compassion & Choices improves care, expands options and empowers everyone to chart their end-of-life journey.

Values

Compassionate in our commitment to dying patients having access to needed care at the end of life and being free of unwanted treatment, suffering or interference.

Respectful of the autonomy of individuals to decide what end-of-life options are best for them and their loved ones.

Courageous in our willingness to confront the toughest end-of-life health challenges, disrupt the broken status quo and protect an individual's right to self-determination.

Credible in all our education, advocacy and partnerships — our efforts are grounded in objective research and demonstrable facts.

Resilient in our capacity to respond to opportunities for and threats to the movement so that we can achieve our vision as quickly as possible.

People-Powered Organization

604,000 Supporters 88,558
Active Donors

5,774

394,285

Volunteers Across the Country

Online Actions

111,896

\$22.7M

Social Media Followers

In Contributions

613

43,486

Events We Joined or Hosted

Materials Distributed at Events

A Message From Compassion & Choices

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on the past year at Compassion & Choices, we are proud to share the moments and milestones that have defined our journey. Thanks to your unwavering support, we continue to make significant strides across our mission to improve care, expand options and empower everyone to chart their own end-of-life journey.

First, we would like to thank Kim Callinan for nearly a decade of service and leadership to Compassion & Choices, furthering the end-of-life options movement. Kim stepped down as president and CEO of Compassion & Choices in September 2024. Next, we named Kevin Díaz, JD, as Interim President and CEO/Chief Legal Advocacy Officer and General Counsel. Kevin has been with the organization for over ten years. His work has and continues to focus on improving healthcare and expanding choice for the end of life throughout the United States. We look forward to welcoming a new President & CEO in the new year.

As we move into this new fiscal year, we reflect on our successes and also a few challenges. Each accomplishment celebrated in this annual report is the direct result of many smaller acts all guiding us to further our entire mission. We are making extraordinary progress, moving toward the goals outlined in our strategic plan.

Expanding Options: We celebrated historic achievements including the implementation of legislation that improved the Colorado End-of-Life Options Act by reducing waiting periods and expanding provider eligibility. Our advocacy efforts have supported medical aid-indying legislation in 19 states while advancing it further than ever before in Delaware, New Hampshire, New York, Massachusetts, Minnesota and Virginia. We filed a lawsuit in New Jersey (similar to our successful lawsuits in Vermont and Oregon) with the goal of repealing the residency requirement so that out of state residents can access New Jersey's medical aid-in-dying law. We also worked in partnership with our federal champion to introduce legislation that partially repeals the assisted suicide funding restriction act.

Defending Options: Our legal team defended medical aid-in-dying laws including successful efforts to protect the California law from opposition litigation efforts. Additionally, we continue to legitimize the importance of advance directives, celebrating a significant win in Logan v. Country Oaks Partners which ensures individuals are not forced into arbitration against their wishes.

Empowering Everyone: We are committed to empowering individuals across diverse communities to make informed end-of-life decisions that align with their wishes. Our updated Dementia Values & Priorities Tool®, now available in Spanish, Simple Chinese and Traditional Chinese, has reached over 2 million people. Our new email newsletter, Charting Your Life's Journey, provides practical tips to thousands of supporters each month. Partnering with SAGE, we created the LGBTQ+ Advance Care Planning Toolkit



and developed our "Pride All Year" Toolkit. Our African American Leadership Council hosted "The Journey Home" summit, attracting over 1,000 registrants. We also collaborated with The Center for Black Health Equity and the LatinX Task Force to secure end-of-life planning resolutions. We continued our partnership with Ventanillas de Salud to enhance health literacy at life's end among Latino community members. And, our efforts to reach religious and spiritual communities culminated in our annual Compassion Weekend.

Improving Care: We have expanded our National Emergency Medicine and Palliative Care Initiative (NEPMI), launching advisory councils, demonstration projects and community forums to integrate palliative care into emergency settings. Our groundbreaking partnership with the American Society on Aging has allowed us to incorporate dementia planning tools into various settings nationwide, addressing the needs of aging populations. At the federal level, we successfully advocated for extending COVID-19 telehealth flexibilities, influenced the Department of Health and Human Services to begin critical work to establish data standards so that providers can access advance directives across health systems and state lines and worked in coalition to undue regulatory action that put patients' rights at life's end at risk.

Impact: Our work has a real impact on real families by ensuring more people die with compassion and closure. Please peruse the annual report and learn more about the impact our work has on the end-of-life movement across the nation.

Thank you for being a part of this vital movement. Together, we will continue to create impactful moments and milestones, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to live their final days with dignity and peace.

With gratitude,

Compassion & Choices

Expanding End-of-Life Options

Bills to Authorize or **Improve Medical Aid**

in Dying

Bipartisan Sponsors or Co-Sponsors of Medical Aid-in-Dying Legislation Through relentless advocacy and innovative outreach, Compassion & Choices continues to lead the charge in advocating for compassionate legislation and policies, transforming end-of-life care across the nation.

Advocated for and won improvements: Our team's advocacy led directly to improvements to Colorado's End-of-Life Options Act. Key updates to the law include reducing the mandatory waiting period between oral requests from 15 to seven days or waiving it entirely if the patient is unlikely to survive the wait. Advanced practice registered nurses with prescriptive authority can now also serve as attending and consulting providers.

Advanced medical aid in dying: In 19 states, we pushed these bills further than ever before in Delaware, New Hampshire, New York, Massachusetts, Minnesota and Virginia.

In Delaware, the Ron Silverio/Heather Block End-of-Life Options Act passed the House and Senate with bipartisan support for the first time. This incredible milestone was a testament to the dedication of our Delaware staff, volunteers and advocates as well as the unwavering support of lead bill sponsor Rep. Paul Baumbach. Outgoing Gov. John Carney vetoed the bill on Sept. 20, 2024, despite more than 70% of Delaware residents supporting the compassionate end-of-life option.

Embarked on a significant journey: Our senior campaign director, Tim Appleton, traveled on a 300-mile, 28-day walking tour across Connecticut to raise awareness for medical aid-in-dying legislation. This unprecedented effort garnered extensive media coverage and significant public engagement, with events along the way attracting over 150 participants.

Filed a landmark lawsuit: Similar to our successful lawsuits in Vermont and Oregon, we filed a historic lawsuit in New Jersey on behalf of two cancer patients, Judith Govatos and Andrea Sealy, and two physicians, Dr. Paul Bryman and Dr. Deborah Pasik, with the goal of repealing that state's residency requirement to access medical aid in dying. In September, a federal judge ruled the residency mandate in New Jersey's medical aid-in-dying law does not violate the U.S. Constitution's guarantee of equal treatment. We are evaluating next steps and will use all of the tools at our disposal to remove the residency restriction.



Provided essential support: We provided support including grants and assistance to local groups in Vermont and Oregon to support out-of-state residents in accessing medical aid in dying.

Advocated for legislative change: We worked to repeal of the Assisted Suicide Funding Restriction Act, including collaborating with Rep. Brittany Pettersen (D-CO) around the drafting and introduction of the Patient Access to End-of-Life Care Act (H.R. 8137).

Supported our physician advocates: These clinicians successfully lobbied for the New York and Georgia state medical societies to drop their opposition to medical aid in dying.

Take Me Out Feet First on Amazon Prime: In partnership with Compassion & Choices, Amazon Prime debuted a docuseries directed by Serene Meshel-Dillman titled *Take Me Out Feet First*. This series highlights the stories of terminally ill advocates who fought for medical aid-in-dying laws.

Last Flight Home National Screening Tour: In collaboration with Interloper Films, we are supporting a national tour of the documentary Last Flight Home. This film, which premiered at the Sundance and Telluride Film Festivals, tells the story of Eli Timoner's decision to die peacefully with medical aid in dying. By showcasing this documentary, we aimed to bolster legislative efforts to improve end-of-life care options.

I am grateful for the work of Compassion & Choices to gain these crucial improvements to the law, which will help ensure that no eligible, dying Coloradans suffer the way my mom did, or are unable to die on their own terms as authorized by our state's law.

- Meghan Reese (Colorado), Advocated for improvements to Colorado's law

Unyielding Advocacy:

The Ongoing
Challenge for
Medical Aid in
Dying in New York

We must authorize medical aid in dying in New York, a state with over 8.3 million people, in order to achieve our goal of 50% of the population being able to access medical aid in dying by 2028. Without a doubt, passage of the bill in the Empire State would propel the movement forward in a similar way to the California End of Life Option Act, which became law in 2015.

Compassion & Choices, alongside dedicated advocates, led significant efforts to pass the Medical Aid in Dying Act in New York in 2024, experiencing both significant gains and disappointing outcome. Despite a near decade-long push, the state legislature failed to authorize this peaceful practice for the ninth consecutive year. The campaign, driven by terminally ill New Yorkers and supported by doctors, legislators and thousands of dedicated advocates, was marked by high-profile demonstrations, arrests and a commitment to continuing the work.

Facing a challenging political environment, our staff and advocates employed creative and bold actions to draw attention to the cause. Compassion & Choices volunteers occupied elevators in the Capitol, distributed stickers and conducted a nine-hour reading of supportive literature outside the Senate chamber. The climax was a planned civil disobedience action where advocates unfurled a large banner in the gallery above the Assembly. This resulted in arrests but also drew significant media attention including a long-awaited article by The New York Times that included a photo of our banner, which read "Stop the Suffering."

Compassion & Choices and our advocates also worked to garner significant endorsements for medical aid in dying from influential groups including the New York State Bar Association, Women's Bar Association









and Medical Society of the State of New York. The New York State Council of Churches, which represents 7,500 congregations, also urged swift legislative action. These endorsements were crucial in building momentum and broadening the coalition of supporters.

The emotional toll of the New York legislature's continued failure to act hit hard. Brian Moffett, diagnosed with ALS, voiced his fear and disappointment, hoping to pass peacefully with the help of the law.

Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton and Assemblymember Amanda Septimo visited him, emphasizing the human impact of the legislative inaction. Similarly, Jules Netherland, living with stage 4 breast cancer, expressed deep frustration, highlighting the unnecessary suffering of terminally ill New Yorkers who are deprived of the option to die on their own terms.

The lack of action by the New York legislature demonstrates the need for continued activism and perseverance, and everyone dedicated to this effort is ready to continue the fight in 2025, buoyed by a Death with Dignity YouGov poll showing 72% of New Yorkers are in favor of medical aid in dying.

The New York campaign's resolve remains strong, fueled by personal stories, the unwavering commitment of advocates and supporters, and your generous resources. The goal is clear: to provide terminally ill New Yorkers the option of a peaceful death, ensuring their autonomy and dignity in their final days. A victory in New York will propel the movement forward across the country.











Defending and Protecting **End-of-Life Options**

Attorneys and Staff who Provided Pro **Bono Legal Assistance**

Value of Pro Bono Legal **Services Contributed**

Defended California's medical aid-in-dying law: In United Spinal Association v. State of California, opponents argued the law discriminates against people with disabilities. As of this writing, the case was dismissed by a lower court, but our team is working to protect the law on appeal.

Secured a victory for medical aid in dying in New Jersey: Glassman v. Grewal challenged the constitutionality of New Jersey's medical aidin-dying law. The New Jersey Supreme Court's decision not to hear the case became a victory for the movement, one that we had been working towards for years.

Protected medical aid in dying in Montana: Our teams and advocates weighed in on Van Garderen v. Montana, a case in the state's Supreme Court about gender-affirming care that had the potential to negatively impact an individual's ability to make complex and highly sensitive end-of-life decisions in line with their needs, values and beliefs. These advocacy efforts translated into a victory for the movement in Montana.

Celebrated a victory for end-of-life rights in California: The California Supreme Court issued a decision in Logan v. Country Oaks Partners, ensuring that individuals who sign advance directives will not be forced into arbitration against their wishes.

66 I had to learn about this law through YouTube videos and TV instead of through my doctors. After talking with someone at Compassion & Choices, I showed my doctor a web page about medical aid in dying to prompt the conversation with them." On his deathbed, he thanked Compassion & Choices and all our supporters for supporting him in accessing medical aid in dying.

- Jose Alejandro Lemuz (California), Advocate and Storyteller, After taking his aid-indying prescription, José passed away gently on March 31, 2024, with loved ones by his side.



THANKING OUR PROFESSIONAL COLLEAGUES FOR DONATED SERVICES

Compassion & Choices thanks the law firms and their attorneys and staff that provided pro bono legal assistance and generously gave their time and expertise this year. Collectivly, these law firms contributed thousands of hours of service valued at more than \$1.6 million (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024).

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Empowering End-of-Life Healthcare:

Tailoring to
Diverse Needs

OVEF 2 MEngaged with Dementia
Values and Priorities Tool

115K
Receive Charting Your Life's

Journey newsletter

Compassion & Choices launched innovative tools and partnerships to empower individuals across diverse communities to chart their end-of-life journey.

Planning Tools for Everyone

Launched our updated Dementia Values & Priorities Tool®:

This tool helps create a custom advance directive outlining the care someone wants – or does not want – in the case of a dementia diagnosis. It has been translated into Spanish, Simple Chinese and Traditional Chinese and reached over 2 million people.

Unveiled a new end-of-life empowerment newsletter: The Charting Your Life's Journey newsletter reaches more than 115,000 people each month, providing practical tips and tools to help individuals become more informed and empowered end-of-life advocates for themselves and their loved ones.

Released compelling webinars: We offered online workshops about grief and legacy which featured authors, thought leaders and financial planners. We launched a "Train the Advocate" series that encouraged people to engage in crucial end-of-life planning conversations and empowered more than 1,200 individuals. We co-hosted an American Society for Aging web series with "American's Psychologist" Dr. Jeff Gardere focusing on different elements of dementia and end of life which was viewed by more than 5,000 people.

Created the first-ever dementia-specific card in the Death

Deck game: This card game was created to help bolster conversations about death with loved ones as well as their values, priorities and beliefs around the end of life that may be less commonly discussed but equally as important. The version with the dementia card is available exclusively through Compassion & Choices.

Expanding Our Reach

NFL ad campaign: In December 2023, during two NFL games, a 30-second TV ad on advance care planning aired in airports nationwide. With 2.2 million daily travelers, the campaign maximized visibility and engagement, directing viewers to a dedicated landing page for more information.

Barbershop podcast series: To honor National Healthcare Decisions Day and Minority Health Month, we launched a four-part series with the Black Barbers Doc podcast. Set in a barbershop with a live band, these podcasts feature discussions on end-of-life planning, aiming to resonate with African American communities.



Plan A Life You Love: Our former president and CEO, Kim Callinan, contributed to the book Plan A Life You Love: A Women's Guide to Health, Wealth and Happiness Without Limitation. In her chapter, "Wisdom From the Brink: Lessons to Live a More Meaningful Life," Kim shares insights from terminally ill advocates, serving as a valuable resource for those seeking a fulfilling life.

National Healthcare Decisions Day radio tour: On April 16, our staff embarked on a radio tour to encourage listeners to make their end-of-life plans, reaching audiences of over 7 million people nationwide.

Reaching People Where They Are

Partnered with SAGE: SAGE is America's oldest and largest non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer or questioning older people. We partnered with them to create the LGBTQ+ Advance Care Planning Toolkit, a co-branded resource aimed at supporting LGBTQ+ elders and addressing their unique needs and concerns as they consider their end-of-life plans.

Developed our "Pride All Year" toolkit: This resource provides valuable educational materials and practical information while continuing our year-round engagement with the LGBTQ+ community.

Hosted "The Journey Home" summit: Our African American Leadership Council hosted a comprehensive discussion on the power of end-of-life planning which featured speakers, panel discussions and a meditation session. This hybrid online/in-person event attracted over 1,000 registrants and marked the beginning of the council's participation in the Congressional Black Caucus Conference where 16 council members and staff engaged in various workshops and seminars, underscoring our commitment to the African American community.

Secured end-of-life resolutions: The LatinX Task Force aims to bridge a health and information gap through collaboration for LatinX communities and The Center for Black Health Equity is the leading nationally recognized public health entity for solutions impacting African American health. Both adopted resolutions emphasizing the importance of planning for the end of life and encouraged their members to document their wishes.

Expanded our four-year partnership with the Ventanillas de Salud (VDS) network: As a Mexican government public health initiative with over 52 sites nationwide, VDS contributes resources to the Latino community nationwide. Compassion & Choice's pilot program with 10 VDS sites has given us the perfect opportunity to train community health workers on end-of-life planning at its nonprofit organizations and low-cost clinics. This partnership enhances health literacy and awareness, empowering Latino community members to make informed end-of-life decisions through active discussion, and informative and educational sessions.

Launched Compassion Weekend: Our interfaith celebration promoted advance care planning in partnership with National Baptists, Unitarian Universalists, Jewish and Muslim congregations.

Supported Trans People in fighting for end-of-life rights: Our staff attended the National Transgender Health Summit and hosted a Trans Grief Town Hall event, reflecting our continued commitment to ensuring everyone can have the end-of-life experience they want, regardless of who they are or love.

Improving End-of-Life Care in America



We improve end-of-life care through legislative policy change and by advocating for systemic change within medicine.

Influencing clinical care to make it more patient-directed:

Developed a multi-year groundbreaking partnership with the American Society on Aging (ASA) to reach new audiences of clinicians, health care administrators, caregivers and providers to older Americans. This includes a competitive grant-making program to incorporate Compassion & Choices' transformative dementia planning tools into new settings that serve the aging population nationwide including government agencies and community, legal and clinical settings.

Expanded our National Emergency and Palliative Medicine Initiative

(NEPMI): This initiative strives to transform care by advancing and promoting the integration of palliative care into emergency settings. This fiscal year, we launched our advisory council and unveiled a central hub for resources related to the benefits of integrating palliative care into emergency medicine, promoted networking and collaboration among healthcare professionals by launching the NEPMI community forum, provided mentorship and tailored resources to three emergency department programs seeking to integrate palliative care practices and launched our first NEPMI demonstration programs.

Impacted the practice of medicine: We delivered 57 presentations, representing over 6,500 hours of clinical education on a range of endof-life topics to more than 4,700 healthcare professionals. This included high-impact presentations at organizations such as the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, City of Hope, US Oncology Network, National Urban League, National Black Nurses Association and American Society on Aging.

Collaborated with major national organizations: These included the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association, American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine and the National End of Life Doula Alliance.



Hours of Clinical Education on a Range of End-of-Life Topics

Professionals Trained

Influencing End-of-Life Care Through **Federal Regulatory and Policy Action**

Ensured telehealth remains possible: We successfully advocated to temporarily extend the COVID-19 telehealth flexibilities so that people could continue to benefit from audio and video visits with clinicians as clinically appropriate.

Making advance directives transferable: Our teams worked in coalition to encourage the Department of Health and Human Services Health IT team to begin addressing the data standards and systems needed for providers to access patient care planning documents across health systems.

Protected patient's rights via contributions to multiple coalition efforts which protected patients at the end of life from discrimination in healthcare settings.

Visited dozens of Congressional offices to discuss health disparities, raising awareness and support for the Health Equity and Accountability Act, Do No Harm Act, CONNECT for Health Act, VA CAREERS Act, Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act and the repeal of the Assisted Suicide Funding Restriction Act.

We're really, really happy to find new partners like Compassion & Choices with their unique message about end-of-life care. It would've been impossible to broach this subject if it wasn't for Compassion & Choices and their mission.

- Edgar Carmona (Texas), Advocate/partner, CEO of Amigos Sin **Fronteras**

COMBINED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

June 30, 2024

ASSETS:

Current assets:

Cash and cash equivalents:

Operating	4,228,792
Investments	5,882,013
Pledges receivable-current portion	231,737
Investments	24,229,233
Prepaid expenses and other	711,669
Beneficial interest in charitable	
remainder trusts	127,464

Total current assets 35,410,908

Property, equipment and improvements:

Furniture, fixtures and equipment	356,540
Leasehold improvements	11,695

368,235

Less accumulated depreciation

and amortization 362,466

Total property, equipment

and improvements 5,769

Other assets:

Pledges receivable net of	
current portion	65,000
Intangible assets, net	5,417
Investment, partnership interest	238,841
Right-of-use asset - operating leases	550,695
Deposits	8,044

Total other assets 867,997

TOTAL ASSETS 36,284,674

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS:

Current liabilities:

Total current liabilities	5,265,267
Operating leases liability	91,356
Deferred revenue	3,000,000
Accrued expenses	1,501,458
Accounts payable	672,453

Long-term liabilities:

Deferred revenue, net of current portion	6,000,000
Gift annuity payments due	297,207
Operating leases liability,	
net of current portion	407,012
Total long-term liabilities	6,704,219

Total liabilities 11,969,486

Net assets:

Without donor restrictions:

Total net assets	24,315,188
With donor restrictions	296,737
Equipment and Improvements	5,769
Net investments in Property,	
Operating	24,012,682

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND

NET ASSETS 36,284,674



COMBINED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

Year Ended June 30, 2024

Revenue and other support:

Contributions	22,696,407
Donated services	1,670,410
Membership fees	8,515
Investment income, net of expenses	1,043,961
Realized and unrealized gain on investments	2,665,007
Other income	29,008

Total revenue and other support 28,113,308

Expenses:

Programs	23,133,004
General and administrative	1,564,421
Fundraising	2,018,947

Total expenses 26,716,372

Increase in net assets 1,396,936

Net assets, beginning:

Total net assets, beginning, 22,918,252

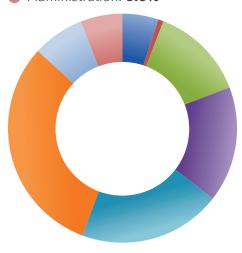
NET ASSETS, ENDING 24,315,188

ALL COSTS

Year Ended June 30, 2024



- Grassroots Lobbying: 0.7%
- Policy and Litigation: 13.1%
- Advocacy: 16.4%
- Community Engagement: 20.2%
- Public Education: 30.9%
- Fundraising: 7.6%
- Administration: 5.8%



PROGRAM EXPENSES AND RATIOS

Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Compassion & Choices	C & C Action Network	Total
Direct Lobbying	691,869	717,348	1,409,217
Grassroots Lobbying	186,763	-	186,763
Policy and Litigation	3,470,723	41,990	3,512,713
Advocacy	3,896,410	481,378	4,377,788
Community Engagement	5,392,489	-	5,392,489
Public Education	8,068,405	185,629	8,254,034
Fundraising	1,752,701	266,246	2,018,947
Administration	1,498,586	65,835	1,564,421
TOTAL EXPENSES	24,957,946	1,758,426	26,716,372

- Direct Lobbying: 6.1%
- Grassroots Lobbying: 0.8%
- Policy & Litigation: **15.2%**
- Advocacy: 18.9%
- Community Engagement: 23.3%
- Public Education: 35.7%



OUR PROGRESS IS POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF YOU

Whether you choose to volunteer, donate or share your story, you propel our movement forward. In the following pages, we thank those who advanced our work with annual and planned gifts made during the fiscal year (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024).

Thank you for making this year a wonderful success.

WAYS TO DONATE

- CandC.org/donate
- \$800.247.7421 x2159



Compassion & Choices Gift Processing Center PO Box 485 Etna, NH 03750



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A planned gift can provide significant tax benefits and even tax-free lifetime income for you and your loved ones. We accept all types of securities, as well as IRA-Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD), real estate, cryptocurrency, insurance policies and other alternative asset classes.



A LEGACY CHALLENGE MATCH

Create a new planned gift or notify Compassion & Choices of your current planned gift, and an anonymous donor will donate \$500 in your honor.

For more information.

- Contact us at 800.247.7421 x2152 or
- plannedgiving@CompassionAndChoices.org



MAIL YOUR PLANNED GIFT TO:

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Top Marks from 5 Major Charity Watchdog Groups

Compassion & Choices is proud to be rated one of the most trusted, efficient, sustainable, accountable and transparent charities in the country.











We are deeply grateful to donors at every giving level. Below and online, we pay special tribute to our leadership donors for their exponential impact on our progress.

CIRCLE OF TRANSFORMATION (\$1 million+)

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Irene and Alan Wurtzel

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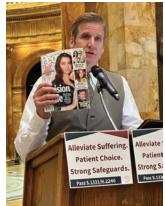




















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