

WELCOME

Hello again to all of you who have asked to be in touch with Ohio End of Life Options, the Cleveland-based group organized to bring education about Death with Dignity laws to Ohio. This legislation is the same that has passed and is operative today in Oregon, and very

similar to laws passed in Washington, Vermont and California. The months since our last communication in January have been very busy. We are excited to share what has been going on.

Ohio End of Life Options

NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Our group is very new but already gaining momentum engaging in educational and advocacy activities regarding end-of-life choices to help people legally achieve their wishes for a peaceful and dignified death.

ON A NATIONAL BOARD

The Death with Dignity National Center has been instrumental in providing logistic and strategic guidance to our group. It was a great honor to join their Board of Directors, and I am excited to be kept up to date on current legislative activities throughout the U.S.

It's important to bring this discussion to Ohio simply because many people have never heard of aid in dying laws. With California's End of Life Option Act being implemented on June 9th, residents of the most populous state in the nation will now have this choice and more and more people will become aware of it.

NONPROFIT STATUS

We've become a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and, in addition to all of the progress we've made so far, we are looking forward to launching community outreach events in order to engage community, medical and political groups in discussion with the aim of ultimately getting legislation passed based on Death with Dignity laws.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

I have already had the opportunity to talk with bioethicists at The Cleveland Clinic, University Hospitals, and the MetroHealth System. This has led to speaking opportunities in undergraduate and graduate courses at CWRU as well as an upcoming Cleveland Clinic Bioethics Grand Rounds speaking engagement. I'm looking forward to sharing my personal experience with physicians attending the Mayo Clinic's national Annual Oncology Review Course in July as well

as local hospice groups. I was honored to sit on a panel at the national Healthcare Journalists' Conference in April and discuss "what is a good death" alongside journalists, hospice and bioethics experts.

LEGISLATIVE OUTREACH

Another important opportunity came when Lakewood resident, Judith Allen, organized a meeting with her State Representative Nickie Antonio (D-District 13) and other interested community members and invited me to present my family's experience along with facts and data about death with dignity laws.

Moving forward, we need to meet with more legislators, both in person and in events like Lobby Days in Columbus.

SUPPORT OUR WORK

We look forward to more outreach activities! Please support us with donations that will allow us to travel throughout Ohio and engage in community events. We are planning to train more people, starting with our board members, to speak at different forums all over the state.

I look forward to speaking at the Tri-State

Freethinkers' monthly meeting in Newport, Kentucky, in September. I'd love other outreach opportunities during this trip.

WRITE YOUR LEGISLATOR

Aside from your monetary support, we need you becoming engaged by writing letters to your state legislators, volunteering to host an event and just having the conversation with friends and family throughout Ohio. Bringing awareness to the issue of Death with Dignity laws is a first step in getting a law passed here in Ohio. As our board member, Roger Peckinpaugh says, "We need representatives in each of Ohio's counties". Your voice is critical in moving forward!

Thank you,



Lisa Vigil Schattinger
Executive Director, Ohio End of Life Options

NEWS

NONPROFIT STATUS

We have been approved for 501(c)(3) non-profit status. A big thank you to steering committee members Lisa Vigil Schattinger, Susan Spinell and Roger Peckinpaugh for all their efforts on behalf of Ohio End of Life Options. Now you can support us today by clicking on the DONATE tab at our website OhioOptions.org. You will be directed to our secure donation page.

MEETING A STATE REPRESENTATIVE

On April 22, 2016, we met with Ohio State Representative Nikki Antonio and a group of interested individuals from the Detroit-Shoreway neighborhood. Representative Antonio gave us a very precise and helpful overview of the legislative process and helpful strategic information as well as agreeing to work with us moving forward.

UPCOMING EVENTS

PUBLIC EVENTS

Free Film Showing and Q&A Session

When: Monday, June 20, 2016 at 6:30 pm

Where: South Euclid-Lyndhurst Branch of the Cuyahoga County Library, Meeting Room A, 1876 S Green Rd, South Euclid, Ohio

Winner of the 2011 Sundance Film Festival Grand Jury award, “How to Die in Oregon” follows several terminally ill Oregonians’ journey using the Death with Dignity Act, and the successful 2008 effort to pass the Washington law.

Discussion with Janet Rowe, RN

When/Where: TBD (mid-July in Ohio)

A discussion event featuring Janet Rowe, whose husband, Dr. Jack Rowe, used Oregon’s Death with Dignity Act in 2014.

Presentation at Tri-State Freethinkers

When: Wednesday, September 7, 2016, at 7:00 pm

Where: Newport on The Levee, 1 Levee Way, Newport, Kentucky

Ohio End of Life Options’ Executive Director, Lisa Vigil Schattinger shares her powerful story about her stepfather’s use of Oregon’s Death with Dignity Act. She presents information about the laws, data collected under the laws and the current state of legislation. Open to the public.

MEDICAL COMMUNITY EVENTS

26th Annual Mayo Clinic Hematology/Oncology Annual Review Course: End of Life Controversies

When: Friday, July 29, 2016

Moderator: Gerardo Colon-Otero, MD;

panelists: Len Brummel-Smith, MD: “Aid in dying for individuals with terminal illness: A human right or a slippery slope”;

Lisa Vigil Schattinger, MSN, RN & Jan Rowe, RN: “Personal experience with a loved one who ends his love with the help of the Death with Dignity Act.”

Cleveland Clinic Bioethics Grand Rounds

When: Monday, September 12, 2016

Lisa Vigil Schattinger, MSN, RN: “A Good Death, Dr. Jack Rowe”



THANK YOU!

Thank you to the nurses and healthcare social workers who have contacted Ohio End of Life Options with their stories and intention to get involved. It’s been especially gratifying hearing from healthcare students taking policy classes. They’ve chosen Death with Dignity laws as a topic, even though there is currently

no legislation in Ohio. Why would they choose this? Because they are passionate about the need for people facing terminal illnesses having the right to the peace and control that aid in dying legislation brings. Through these classes, the students must contact a legislator about their topic. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

WHAT CAN I DO NOW?

TALK WITH YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS

This is important if you hope one day to have options for your own dying. Since there is no legislation in Ohio with regard to medical aid in dying, this is currently not an option.

Be sure to have advanced directives in place and consider designating a healthcare proxy in case you are unable to make decisions. Are you aware that advanced directives are not legally binding? Because of this it is critical that your family or support systems are aware of your wishes. You cannot rely on written directives alone.

LEARN ABOUT OREGON'S LAW AND BE COMFORTABLE TALKING ABOUT IT

You can find a copy of the law under the Resources tab at OhioOptions.org.

INVITE OHIO END OF LIFE OPTIONS TO SPEAK FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION

Contact us to set up a date.

TALK TO YOUR DOCTOR

Give a copy of Dr. Jack Rowe's *Journal of American Medical Association* article "Beliefs" to

him or her. A link to the article can be found in the Timeline tab at OhioOptions.org.

Let your doctor(s) and other health care professionals understand your own values. Are you aware that Medicare is now reimbursing physicians for end of life conversations?

SIGN UP WITH THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Death with Dignity National Center
www.DeathWithDignity.org
- Compassion & Choices
www.compassionandchoices.org

By signing up you show these organizations that Ohio is serious about moving forward. These groups will keep you informed of all events.

CHECK OUR WEBSITE OHIOOPTIONS.ORG REGULARLY FOR UPCOMING EVENTS AND UPDATES

WHITELIST OUR EMAIL ADDRESS

Set up a contact with our email address contact@ohiooptions.org so that future emails reach your inbox, not your spam folder.

MEET HANNAH KENT

Our new CWRU bioethics, student volunteer Hannah Kent will be bringing her energy and knowledge to our cause.

Hanna's take on death and dying: "Learning about death really teaches you about life and how to live it. Go and live your life until death is the only thing you haven't tried."



A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

I am very pleased to announce that on Monday, June 20th, Ohio End of Life Options will hold their very first annual meeting. We will vote in all of our board members during our short business meeting and then show the documentary “How to Die in Oregon”. The public has been invited to attend.

We have a wonderful, dedicated group of people who have shown their support, joined our soon-to-be-elected board, and feel strongly about educating the community about the right to choose a dignified and peaceful death when one has been diagnosed with a terminal illness.

We owe much to our Executive Director, Lisa Vigil Schattinger and her drive and perseverance to bring this topic to those who will listen. She has made great strides, incredible progress and her ability to tell her family’s story has already made a strong impact.

We know the road ahead is long and perhaps will at times be rocky and steep, but it is a good road. And one we wish to travel together as we spread the word.

Susan Spinell

ABOUT OHIO END OF LIFE OPTIONS

Ohio End of Life Options’ purpose is to engage in educational and advocacy activities regarding end-of-life choices, with the aim of helping people legally achieve their wishes for a peaceful and dignified death.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kimberly Barton
Kathy Cline
Elizabeth Nuechterlein
Roger Peckinpaugh
Doug Schattinger
Lisa Vigil Schattinger (Executive Director)
Susan Spinell
Mark Weber
Marjorie Wilson



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