

Medical Aid in Dying for the Terminally Ill in Ohio



Ohio End of Life Options' mission is to raise awareness and provide education about current Ohio end-of-life options, advance care planning, and Medical Aid In Dying (MAID) laws for the terminally ill (**which is not legal in our state**). It is an issue based nonprofit and does not provide patient services.

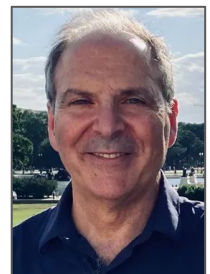


"Now, I am in hospice, and before I die, I write to make my case to [Ohio lawmakers](#) to change the law so other Ohioans may one day have the freedom I have been denied."

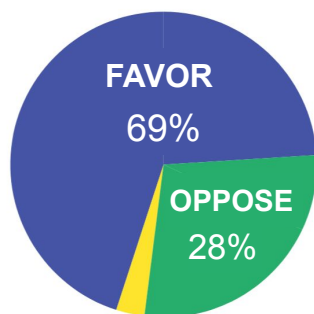
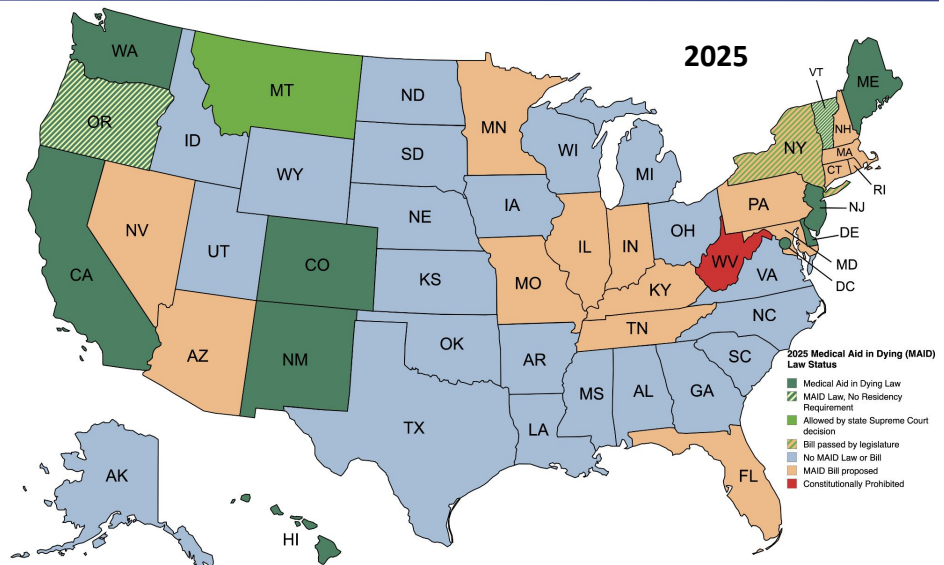
My life is ending. My wife will watch my labored breathing, anguish. We deserve better.
| Opinion, by David Hollister, *The Columbus Dispatch*, September 3, 2025

"This option will likely always be for the few, but for those few, it can offer a last chance to control their destiny. Ohioans deserve the freedom to make this decision, and many of us believe we need to work toward a law allowing MAID for the terminally ill."

'Last chance to control their destiny': Physician supports medical aid in dying | Opinion, by Eric Shapiro, MD, *Akron Beacon Journal*, June 5, 2025



- Eleven states and DC allow access to MAID for the terminally ill. Delaware's law is awaiting implementation.
- OR and VT do not have residency requirements.
- NY is awaiting the Governor's action after law was passed by the legislature.
- Any provider may opt not to participate.



Ohio Voters Support MAID Legislation

In 2018 Senator Charleta Tavares proposed SB 249, Ohio's first aid in dying bill. Polling matched national surveys showing a majority of Americans support MAID.

May 2018 Public Policy Polling Survey.

N=645 OH voters

margin of error is +/- 3.9%

For information please contact Lisa Vigil Schattinger, MSN, RN at Info@OhioOptions.org.

The Facts About Medical Aid in Dying for the Terminally Ill



Medical Aid in Dying (MAID) laws allow a terminally ill, mentally capable adult to request and qualify for a prescription from their doctor that they may take to die peacefully when they choose. **It is not legal in Ohio.**



There are strict requirements with proven safeguards.

The person must be:

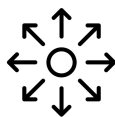
- an adult
- have six months or less to live
- be capable of making informed decisions
- be able to ingest the medication themselves

Two healthcare providers confirm these criteria. There are additional steps such as oral and written requests as well as a waiting period.

Advanced age, disabilities and dementia do not qualify as terminal illnesses for MAID.



Only the patient can make the request. They decide if and when to take the medication.



Medical Aid In Dying is optional. All healthcare providers may opt not to participate.



OR and VT allow Non-Residents

If an Ohioan considers going to Oregon or Vermont to qualify for MAID, these volunteer organizations provide information:

- End of Life Choices Oregon
- Patient Choices Vermont

It is not legal to return to Ohio with the medication. If they decide to take it they must ingest it in Oregon or Vermont.



Most patients who obtained a prescription were also enrolled in hospice care. It is an option in addition to quality end-of-life care.



Medical Aid in Dying can provide comfort at a time when little is under the patient's control. Patients report having this option relieves fear and anxiety - even for those who never choose to use it.

The Academy of Aid-in-Dying Medicine -

[AADM.org](https://aadm.org) - provides detailed clinical guidance for healthcare providers who want to understand the issue.

Current Options for End of Life Care in Ohio:

- When diagnosed with serious or terminal illness, people may opt to start, stop or not start treatments.
- Palliative care for serious **and** terminal illness focuses on quality of life and symptom management.
- Hospice is for the terminally ill with six months or less to live who are receiving no curative treatments.
 - Hospice also focuses on quality of life and symptom management.
 - Palliative sedation through hospice or in an inpatient setting
 - Voluntarily Stopping Eating and Drinking (VSED) as a patient choice - requires medical support
- Advance Directive: Appoints Health Care Proxy and directs health care if terminally ill AND not capable of making decisions OR in a permanently unconscious state.
- DNR-CC Form: portable medical order



OhioOptions.org

