

# U.S. Model of Medical Aid in Dying for the Terminally Ill in Ohio

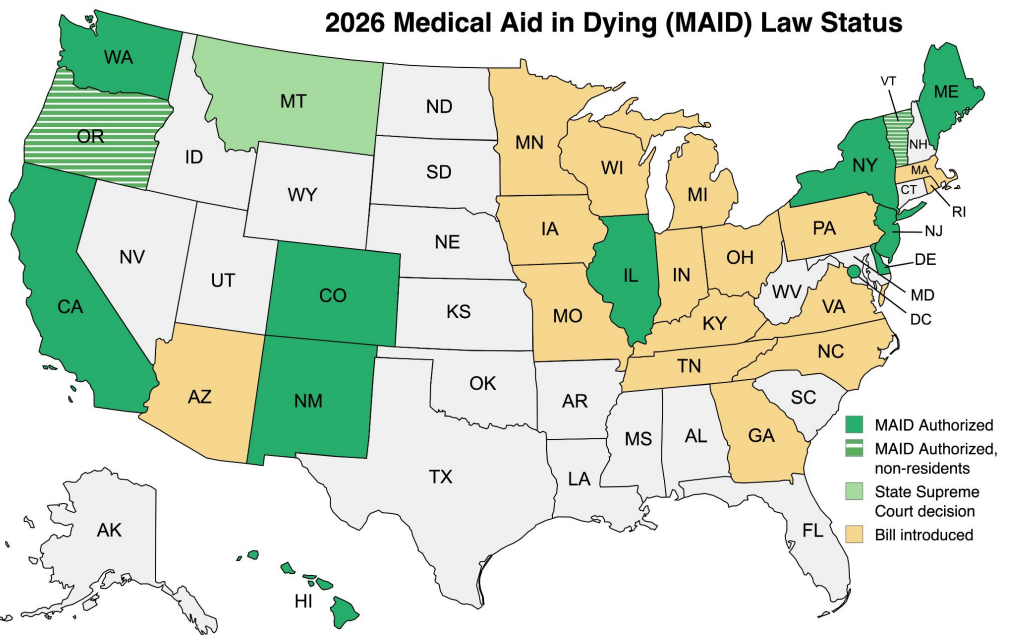


Ohio End of Life Options' mission is to raise awareness and provide fact-based education about Medical Aid in Dying laws in order to achieve the enactment of such a law. Our vision is that all Ohioans will have the knowledge and power to direct their own end-of-life care. The values, beliefs, and preferences that each person brings to these decisions will be protected by laws and rooted in compassion. Ohio End of Life Options 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 [April 24, 1961-Sept. 3, 2025], The Columbus Dispatch, Sept. 2, 2025



Thirteen states and D.C. authorize MAID. IL and NY's laws will be implemented during 2026.

**OR and VT allow non-residents to qualify.**

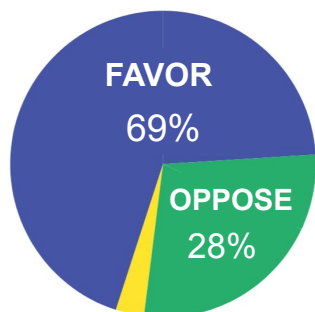
Oregon's Death with Dignity Act was implemented in 1997.

Collectively, there are 129 years of experience through 2025, with over **110 million Americans now living in states that authorize MAID.**

## Ohio Voters Supported 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.

Public Policy Polling [Survey](#), May 2018



Not Sure 3%

N=645 OH voters, margin of error +/- 3.9%

**Pew Research Center, March 2026** A 2025 [survey](#)

found that “a majority of Americans see the practice as morally permissible or don't consider it a moral issue”.

**University of North Florida, July 2025** A [survey](#) of Republican voters “showed 65% supported aid-in-dying versus 31% opposed.”

**Susquehanna Polling & Research, Inc., February 2023** In this national [poll](#), 79% who identified as having a disability agreed that “medical aid in dying (MAID) should be legal for terminally ill, mentally capable adults who chose to self-ingest medication to die peacefully.”

**The AARP - National Geographic “Second Half of Life Study, January 2022** “People aren't afraid of death,” AARP's Whitman says... Of greater concern is controlling the circumstances. “People want choice and self-control when dying,” she says. Most survey respondents endorse medical aid in dying.

Media information: [OhioOptions.org/press-room](https://ohiooptions.org/press-room)

# The Facts About the U.S. Model of Medical Aid in Dying for the Terminally Ill



**Medical Aid in Dying (MAID)** laws allow a terminally ill 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 with a terminal (incurable and irreversible) illness and six months or less to live, determined by two physicians.
- Be able to make informed decisions.
- Be acting voluntarily.
- Be capable of self-administering and ingesting medications. Euthanasia (lethal injection) is not legal in America.

There are additional steps such as oral and written requests as well as a waiting period.

Advanced age and disabilities do not qualify as terminal illnesses for MAID. The request may not be written into an Advance Directive for those with dementia or Alzheimer's.

**Medical Aid In Dying is optional.** All healthcare providers may opt to participate or not. Only the patient may make the request. They may rescind the request at any time.

## National and State Organizational Stances:

Support:

- Medical Society of the State of New York
- New York State Academy of Family Physicians
- [New York State Bar Association](#)

Neutral:

- American Academy of Family Physicians
- American Academy of Hospice & Palliative Medicine
- American Nurses Association
- American Academy of Neurology
- Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association
- The California Academy of Family Physicians
- The California Medical Association
- The Colorado Medical Society
- Medical Society of Delaware
- The Medical Society of the District of Columbia
- Hawai'i Society of Clinical Oncology
- Illinois College of Emergency Physicians
- The Maine Medical Association
- The New Mexico Medical Society
- The Oregon Medical Association
- Vermont Medical Society
- Washington Academy of Family Physicians

The American Medical Association does not support MAID but recognizes that its physicians [may practice according to their conscience](#) in states with laws.

Ohio End of Life Options fully supports access to quality hospice care. [Over 90%](#) of people who ingested MAID medication and died were also enrolled in hospice care. MAID is an additional option in end-of-life care for those who value autonomy and the freedom to control the timing and manner of their death.

## **Current Options for End of Life Care in Ohio:**

- When diagnosed with a terminal illness, a person may opt to start, stop or not start treatments.
- Hospice is for the terminally ill with six months or less to live who are receiving no curative treatments.
  - Hospice focuses on optimizing quality of life and symptom management wherever the person lives.
  - Palliative (or terminal) sedation through hospice or in an inpatient setting is rarely used.
- Voluntarily Stopping Eating and Drinking (VSED) as a patient choice and requires medical support.
- Advance Directive: Appoints Health Care Proxy and directs life sustaining and medical treatment wishes if terminally ill AND not capable of making decisions OR in a permanently unconscious state.
- DNR-CC Form: A portable medical order filled out along with one's current health care provider.



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