



Ohio Medical Aid in Dying Act (HB835)

Call Script

Before you call: Have a pen and paper ready to note the legislator's response. Take a deep breath—you're doing something important!

[FIND YOUR OHIO HOUSE LEGISLATOR](#)

1. GREETING AND INTRODUCTION

"Hello, my name is [YOUR NAME], and I'm a constituent from [YOUR CITY/TOWN]. I'm calling today to ask [Representative/Senator NAME] to support House Bill 835, the Ohio Medical Aid in Dying Act. Is [he/she/they] available, or may I leave a message?"

[Note: You'll likely speak with a staff member. That's perfect—they track constituent calls and relay messages. Be just as respectful and clear with them.]

2. PERSONAL CONNECTION

"This issue is deeply personal to me. **Share your story here—choose what feels authentic to you:**

- "I watched my [mother/father/loved one] suffer at the end of their life, and they told me they wished they had more control over their final days."
- "I am currently living with a life-limiting illness, and while I don't need this option right now. If I were to become eligible, I want to die at home in Ohio in a way that reflects my personal values and beliefs."
- "As someone of faith, I believe this is a decision between a person, their family, their doctor, and their God—not the government."
- "I've worked in healthcare for [X] years, and I've seen how much peace this option brings to families in states where it's legal."
- "I believe in personal freedom, especially during life's most difficult moments."

This isn't about giving up; these patients want to live, but they have a disease that is killing them. All they are asking for is the best quality of life for as long as possible with treatment and even hospice, and the additional option of a planned, peaceful death using Medical Aid in Dying.

3. BILL EXPLANATION

HB835 would allow terminally ill adults with six months or less to live to request medication they can take themselves to end their suffering peacefully. The patient must be mentally capable, make multiple requests, and self-administer the medication.

The bill includes strong safeguards: two physicians must confirm the diagnosis and prognosis, there are waiting periods between requests, and patients must be able to make informed decisions. This mirrors laws that have worked successfully in thirteen states and Washington, D.C., including Oregon, for nearly 30 years, without any verified cases of abuse or coercion.

Right now, Ohioans who are dying and suffering have no legal option for a planned, peaceful death on their own terms. HB835 would change that while protecting vulnerable people through careful medical oversight.

If staff mentions concerns about coercion or abuse: "I understand that concern, and that's exactly why the bill has multiple safeguards—two independent physicians, waiting periods, and mental capacity evaluations. The decades of data from other states show these protections work."

If staff mentions the representative is "pro-life":

VERSION A - If you self-identify as pro-life:

"I'm pro-life too, and that's exactly why I support this bill. I believe adults should have medical freedom—we've been making our own healthcare decisions our entire lives. These patients want to LIVE, but they have a disease that is killing them. They want the best quality of life for as long as possible with hospice, but also want the voluntary option of a planned, peaceful death."

VERSION B - If you do NOT self-identify as pro-life:

"I respect that perspective. But here's what's important: these patients want to LIVE. They have a terminal disease that is killing them. All they're asking for is the voluntary option of medical aid in dying along with high-quality hospice care. It's not about ending life—it's about respecting the medical freedom of terminally ill adults facing death."

4. THE ASK

"I'm calling today to respectfully ask two things: First, that [Representative/Senator NAME] support HB835 when it comes up for consideration. And second, that [he/she/they] advocate for

a public hearing to be scheduled so that proponents—including Ohioans with terminal illnesses and their families—can share their testimony.

These voices deserve to be heard. This is about real people facing unimaginable circumstances who simply want the freedom to decide what is best for them."

5. CLOSING

"Thank you so much for taking the time to listen and for passing this message along to [Representative/Senator NAME]. I really appreciate [his/her/their] consideration of this important issue. May I ask how [he/she/they] is leaning on HB835, or when I might expect to hear back?"

[Note their response, thank them again, and end warmly:]

"Thank you again. Have a great day."

AFTER YOUR CALL

- **Note the response:** Did they say the legislator supports it, opposes it, or is undecided?
- **Follow up:** Consider sending a brief email or letter reinforcing your call
- **Contact Ohio End of Life Options:** Let us know who you called, who you talked to, any helpful comments and who should follow up.
- **Spread the word:** Encourage friends and family to call too—volume matters!

You did it! Your voice matters, and every call makes a difference.

If you decide to request a constituent meeting to discuss the Ohio Medical Aid in Dying Act (HB835), [please email us](#) and let us know you made the request. A member of our policy team is happy to join you in the meeting. Additionally, our lobbying partners, Pappas and Associates, can help us schedule a meeting on our Pack the Room Statehouse Day, when we gather at the Capitol to support testimony by primary bill sponsor Representative Eric Synenberg.



If you have any questions related to the Ohio Medical Aid in Dying Act (HB835), please email our Executive Director, [Lisa Vigil Schattinger, MSN, RN](#)