

Ohio Medical Aid in Dying Act Summary

The bill allows a mentally capable adult who is suffering from an incurable and irreversible disease that, within reasonable medical judgment, will produce death within six months, the option to request, obtain and ingest medication to die peacefully in their sleep.

The bill is modeled after the Oregon Death with Dignity Act, which has been in place for 30 years. It includes strong safeguards to ensure terminally ill patients act knowingly and voluntarily and only after having been advised of all other end of life options, including hospice care, pain control and disease-directed treatment.

- Two licensed physicians determine the terminal diagnosis, the six-month prognosis and the patient's mental capacity. Patients are not eligible for medical aid in dying solely because of age or disability.
- If either physician has concerns about the patient's mental capacity, they must refer the patient to a mental health professional for an assessment. Medication cannot be prescribed unless the patient is determined to have decision making capacity.
- The patient must make two oral requests for aid in dying medication, with a 5-day waiting period between the two requests. The patient must also make a written request witnessed by two people, one of which may not be a relative or be able to benefit from the patient's death.
- At any time, a qualified patient can withdraw their request for medication, can decide not to take the medication once they have it, or otherwise change their mind.
- No health care provider is required to participate in medical aid in dying.
- 14 US jurisdictions allow medical aid in dying.

Primary Sponsors: Representative Eric Synenberg, District 21

Ohio End of Life Options Political Fund:

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