

The Facts About Medical Aid in Dying for the Terminally Ill



Medical Aid in Dying laws provide the option for terminally ill, mentally capable adults to end their life when and where they choose by requesting a prescription from their doctor. The laws define a strict, voluntary process with multiple safeguards.



In 1994, Oregon was the first state to pass a MAID bill. In the 25-year history since implementation, there have been no findings of abuse or coercion.



Medical Aid in Dying laws are referred to by the acronym MAID and are also known as Death with Dignity laws. In the U.S., these laws always apply only to mentally capable adults with terminal illnesses.



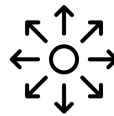
There are strict requirements. The person making the request must be

- an adult
- have six months or less to live
- be able to make an informed health care decision
- be able to ingest the medication themselves.

Two providers must agree that the patient is mentally capable of making the decision.



Patients are protected by many safeguards. A doctor and a second health care provider must confirm that the patient has six months or less to live — due to a terminal illness, not because of age or disability. A doctor, a second health care provider and two independent witnesses must confirm that no coercion exists.



Medical Aid In Dying is optional. It is optional for patients and healthcare providers. No person is required to use it and no doctor is mandated to prescribe the medication. All healthcare providers may opt-out of participation.



The patient is in control. Only the patient can request the prescription, and the patient alone decides if and when to take the medication. The patient must be able to take the medication themselves.



MAID improves end of life care. Evidence shows that palliative or comfort care gets better for patients and families in states with medical aid in dying. The vast majority of patients who have obtained a prescription were also using hospice care.



Medical Aid in Dying can provide comfort and control when a patient is facing the uncertainties and suffering of a terminal illness. Patients report that just having this option relieves fear and anxiety — even for those who never choose to use it.



The laws are administered on a state level. These jurisdictions have passed MAID laws: Oregon, Washington, Vermont, Maine, California, Colorado, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, New Jersey and New Mexico. Medical aid in dying is allowed through a court ruling in Montana.

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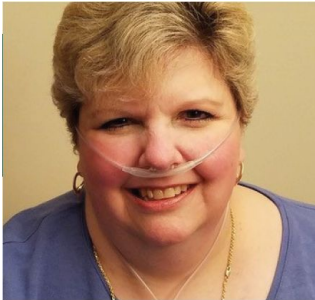
Ohio
End of Life
Options

Medical Aid in Dying for the Terminally Ill in Ohio



The mission of the Ohio End of Life Options Political Fund is to advocate for a medical aid in dying law in Ohio.

Through conversations and research we know that people want this option in Ohio.

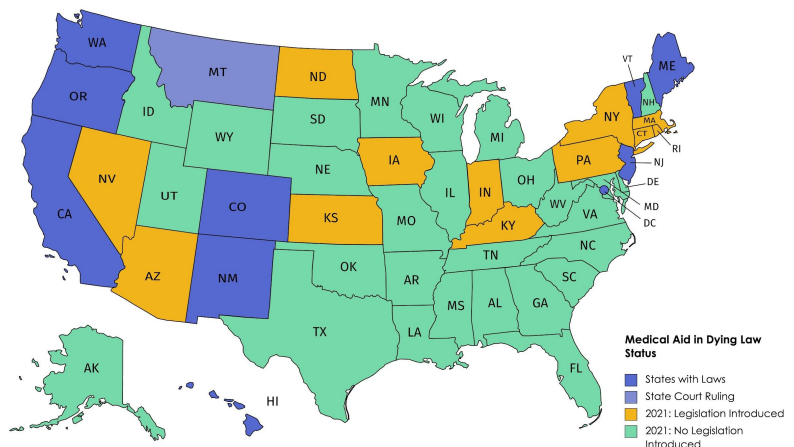


“I still have so much left to do. I want to live my life until I can’t for another moment. I want quality for as long as I can have it. I have been in control of the way I lead my life, I believe I should have control over my death.”

“It is as important to choose the way we die as it is to choose the way we live.”

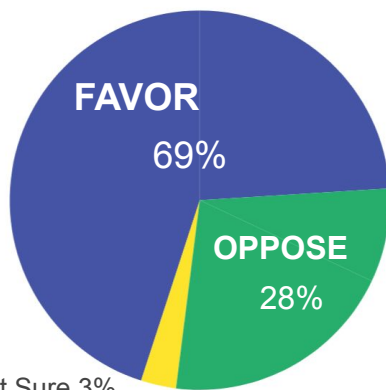
Pamela Gredicak (1965-2020), Columbus, OH.

- Ten states and the District of Columbia allow access to Medical Aid in Dying for the terminally ill.
- One in five Americans has access to this option that provides great comfort to the dying.
- More states are considering legislation.



Ohio Voters Support Medical Aid in Dying Legislation

SUPPORT AMONG OHIO VOTERS



May 2018 Public Policy Polling. N=645 Ohio voters, margin of error is +/- 3.9%

Support for MAID Among Religious Groups in Ohio

PPP Survey, May 2018

