

Medical Aid in Dying for the Terminally Ill in Ohio



Ohio End of Life Options mission is to raise awareness about Medical Aid in Dying and provide fact-based education while working with our partner organization, Ohio End of Life Options Political Fund, toward enactment of a law in Ohio.

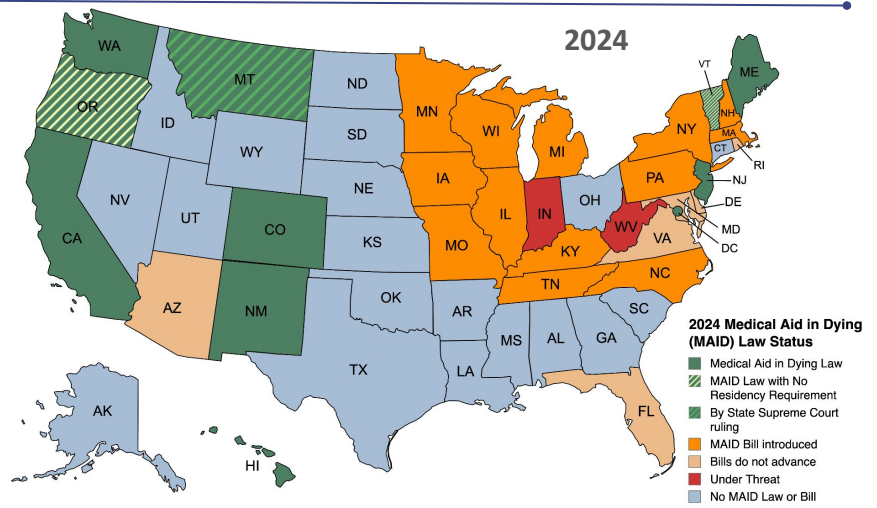
Through conversations and research we know that people want this option in Ohio.



“As a (retired) family physician, and having "stood vigil" with many friends and family members at the end of life, I am totally in support of a Medical Aid in Dying law in Ohio. It is complicated - but then, everything about choices at the end of life is complicated. It is important for patients and their families to have access to ALL end-of-life options.”

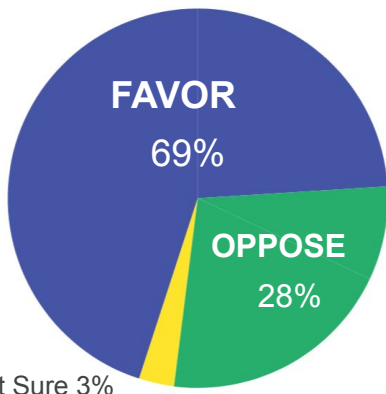
Mary Jane Elam, MD, Columbus, 2022

- Ten states and DC allow access to MAID for the terminally ill.
- One in five Americans has access to this option that provides great comfort to the dying.
- OR and VT no longer have residency requirements.
- More states are considering legislation.



Ohio Voters Support Medical Aid in Dying Legislation

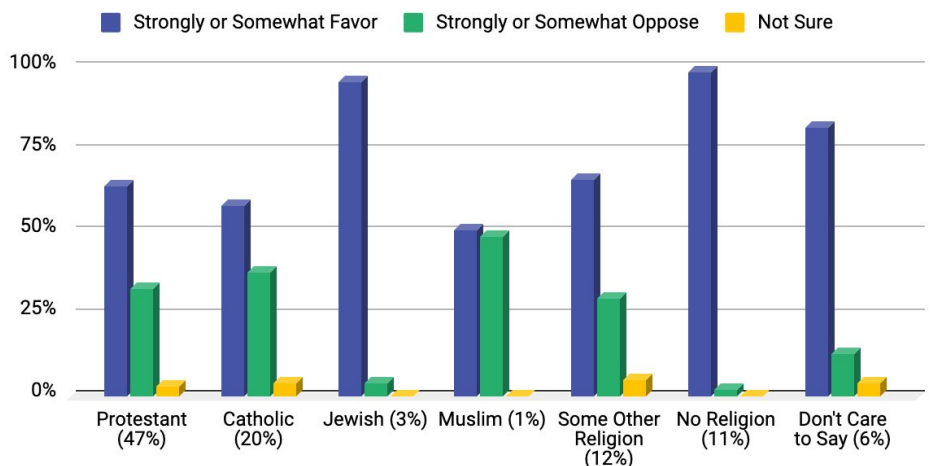
SUPPORT AMONG OHIO VOTERS



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

Support for MAID Among Religious Groups in Ohio

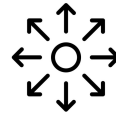
PPP Survey, May 2018



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, multi-step eligibility process with multiple safeguards.



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 vast majority of patients who have obtained a prescription were also using hospice care.



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.



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.



In 1994, Oregon was the first state to pass a MAID bill. In the 25-year history since implementation in 1998, there have been no findings of abuse or coercion. There are now over 90 years of experience with these laws in 10 states and Washington D.C.



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.



Medical Aid in Dying can provide comfort and control when a patient faces 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.

Book Recommendation:

The Day I Die: The Untold Story of Assisted Dying in America
by author and anthropologist Anita Hannig

Award Winning Documentary Recommendation:

How to Die in Oregon, available through Netflix



OhioOptions.org

