60 REASONS TO PASS
NEW YORK’S MEDICAL AID IN DYING ACT
Reason #1
Because this isn’t about politics. It’s about peace at the end of life.

Jennifer Milich
has metastatic kidney cancer and is advocating for medical aid in dying in her home state of New York.

Buffalo, New York

Reason #2
Because those who are chronically subjected to health disparities deserve to learn about and have access to end-of-life options that can help them achieve peace, comfort, and dignity at the end of life.

Dr. Jeff Gardere
New York, New York

Reason #3
So that no one’s final weeks are spent worrying about possible uncontrollable suffering at life’s end.

Bernadette Hoppe

Buffalo, New York

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Reason #4
So that families can come together and celebrate a life well-lived as a loved one transitions on her own terms.

Nancy Murphy
Vermontville, New York

Reason #5
So that at the end of my life, I have the autonomy that I fought so hard for since my first day in a wheelchair.

Gene Hughes
An advocate for the rights of those living with disabilities who believes that personal autonomy should also apply to end-of-life decisions
Utica, New York

Reason #6
So that no one’s brother has to die alone to protect his family from prosecution.

Patty O’Connor
Saw her brother, Jim, struggle with limited end-of-life options
Milan, New York
Reason #7

So that no one’s sister has to research the best way to take her own life.

Ed O’Connor
Following his brother-in-law’s death, saw his sister struggle with limited end-of-life options
Milan, New York

Reason #8

So that no family has to watch their mother starve to death for 11 long and torturous days.

Janet Duprey
Former Republican member of the New York State Assembly (District 115)
Peru, New York

Reason #9

Because I have had patients who have suffered needlessly at the end of life, despite our best attempts to deliver excellent palliative care.

Dr. Al Giwa
New York, New York

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Reason #10
So those who believe in a loving god can deliver themselves into God’s hands, exercising their own free will to end needless suffering.

Kyra Te Paske
Albany, New York

Reason #11
So that a physician can honor their compassionate and ethical commitment to a patient’s autonomy.

Robert Milch, M.D.
The co-founder of Hospice Buffalo (1978) and an internationally recognized palliative care provider, Dr. Milch supports medical aid-in-dying legislation.
Buffalo, New York

Reason #12
So that a young father facing death can create an end-of-life experience that leaves their children with a powerful memory.

Rachel Remmel
Brighton, New York

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Father Luis Barrios
A priest, certified medical examiner and college professor, Fr. Barrios supports medical aid-in-dying legislation
Manhattan, New York

Reason #13
So that everyone can die in a way that’s consistent with their own faith, values, and beliefs.

Janet Green
Watched her partner, Harry, die in pain
Poughkeepsie, New York

Reason #14
So that no one has to stand by helplessly as their husband repeatedly pleads: ‘help me die.’

Fay Hoh Yin (1932-2020)
Brooklyn, New York

Reason #15
Because giving me the option of medical aid in dying would free me to spend all my remaining energy just living, knowing that I would not end up in a dark hole of suffering.
Reason #16
So that no one has to watch their strong Marine brother wither away in a hospital bed and suffer needlessly at the end of life.

Anthony Randolph
Chipped his mind about medical aid in dying after witnessing the death of his brother
The Bronx, New York

Reason #17
Because sometimes the greatest reverence for life is to end human suffering.

Rev. Dr. Richard Gilbert
Rochester, New York

Reason #18
So that no one’s Thanksgiving dinner ends with a shotgun to the head in the barn out back because nothing else could provide relief.

Dr. David Pratt
A board-certified internist with subspecialty certification in pulmonary medicine and preventive medicine, Dr. Pratt served as Commissioner of Public Health Services for Schenectady County from 2009-2012.
Rexford, New York
Reason #19
So that all New Yorkers have the opportunity to be masters of their own fate.

Amanda Cavanaugh
Her partner, Chrissy, was unable to die in accordance with her values
Watervliet, New York

Reason #20
So that no one has to give that last dose of morphine and carry the burden of believing you’ve just ended your loved one’s life.

Reason #21
So that when you know your time in this world will be cut short, you can live your life with less fear and more joy.
Reason #22
So that a beloved mother has the option to lie in her own bed, in her own home, held by her family as she takes her final breaths.

Myra Shulman
Her mother, Beverly, used medical aid in dying in California.
Ithaca, New York

Reason #23
So that no one has to deal with the horror of her husband’s failed attempt to end his own life.

Laurene Gilbert
Her husband, Steve, wasn’t able to die in accordance with his values.
Ithaca, New York

Reason #24
Because an ethical review of the evidence and experience of over more than two decades has shown that there is absolutely no cause for concern.

Art Caplan, Ph.D.
Professor of bioethics at NYU’s Langone Medical Center and founding director of NYULMC’s Division of Medical Ethics, Dr. Caplan supports medical aid-in-dying legislation.
New York, New York
Reason #25
So that no one is forced to be at someone else’s mercy for pain management and comfort care at the end of life after enduring countless treatments, procedures, and side effects in order to live as long as possible.

Susan Rahn
A longtime advocate for medical aid in dying living with terminal cancer.
Roschester, New York

Reason #26
So that after more than 30 years of a vibrant life together, no one has to remember the final moments of a life well-lived as ones spent in agony.

Florrie Burke
Manhattan, New York

Reason #27
Because as a Catholic who respects other people’s faiths, I believe it’s not for anyone to stand in the way of this compassionate option being available for someone else.

Guillermo Chacon
President of the Latino Commission on AIDS, founder of the Hispanic Health Network and a cancer survivor, he supports medical aid-in-dying legislation.
New York, New York
Reason #28

Because requests for medical aid in dying are not a failure of hospice or palliative care, they are an opportunity to improve the end-of-life care experience.

Peggy Lang

Her mother, Helen, was unable to die in accordance with her values.

New York, New York

Reason #29

Because, while we didn’t have a lot to say about how we got here, each of us should have autonomy in our decisions about how we leave.

Avery Ross

Harlem, New York

Reason #30

So that all New Yorkers can determine how they manage their disease and last days.

Robert Pardi

Life coach and Adjunct Professor at the Swiss School of Management in Rome.

Wantagh, New York
Reason #31

So that no New Yorker is left with only one option: starving themselves to death in order to have any end-of-life autonomy.

Eve Eliot
A humorist and author whose husband, Jim, died using VSED
Long Island, New York

Reason #32

So that someone who has faced serious illness with resolute dignity and a will to keep living as long as she can is afforded the same dignity of the option to die on her own terms when there are no more treatment options left.

Ida Schmertz
Supporter living with a life-limiting illness
Manhattan, New York

Reason #33

Because even excellent hospice care can’t alleviate all suffering.

Carol Holochwost
Both her mother and mother-in-law did not die in accordance with their values.
Southampton, New York

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Reason #34

So that no one has to die in agony despite receiving world-class palliative care at a top NYC hospital.

Bonnie Rose Marcus
Her fiancé, 9/11 first responder Jay Kallio, was not able to die in accordance with his values.

Brooklyn, New York

Reason #35

So that no one has to worry when they open the front door that they’ll find their girlfriend has taken her own life.

Scott Barraco
His partner, Cathy, wasn’t able to die in accordance with her values.

Rochester, New York

Reason #36

So that no one has to leave the home they love, their family, and their friends to die on their own terms.

Lindsay Wright
Her husband, Youssef Cohen, was forced to choose between a painful death or leaving the home they shared.

Manhattan, New York

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Reason #37

So that no one is in the other room begging a doctor to increase pain medication when a loved one who asked for help to die takes her final breath.

Cara Brittieri
Cara’s sister Lisa (pictured here) died in agony on Easter Sunday 2018.
Lakewood, New York

Reason #38

So that no one’s strong Irish Catholic dad has to beg for help to die.

Laura Kelly
Watched her father die suffering from colon cancer
Mount Kisco, New York

Reason #39

Because New Yorkers deserve the same option of a peaceful death that my brother had because he lived in Washington State.

Kristin Chambers
Her brother, Mark Chambers, utilized medical aid in dying in Washington
Olean, New York

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Reason #40
So that doctors can respond to each person’s unique clinical circumstances using their values and preferences rather than the doctor’s own.

Dr. Timothy Quill
A physician specializing in palliative care at the University of Rochester Medical Center, Dr. Quill supports the New York Medical Aid in Dying Act.
Rochester, New York

Reason #41
So that no one has to hear their husband ask her to shoot him to end unbearable suffering.

Barbara Thomas
Her husband, Bob, was unable to die in accordance with his values
Saratoga Springs, New York

Reason #42
Because authorizing medical aid in dying brings conversations about end of life out of the shadows and leads to improvements in end-of-life care for everyone, even if they don’t use the law.

Dr. Jay Federman
A family physician from Saranac Lake and medical director for the Tri-Lakes division of High Peaks Hospice, Dr. Federman supports the New York Medical Aid in Dying Act.
Saranac Lake, New York
Reason #43
So that no one has to watch her once-vibrant husband starve to death.

Stacey Gibson
Her husband, Sid, was unable to die in accordance with his values
Garrison, New York

Reason #44
So that no one’s daughter is robbed of precious, sacred time with their mother because of fear of suffering.

Monona Yin
Brooklyn, New York

Reason #45
So that a daughter’s promise to her mother that she won’t have to suffer can be honored.

Shannon Wong
Hudson Valley, New York

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Reason #46

Because health justice means allowing people agency at the end of their lives.

Naomi Edmondson
Brooklyn, New York

Reason #47

So that no one has to consider breaking the law to grant their loved one’s last wish: to die in peace without needless suffering.

Betty Rollin
New York, New York

Reason #48

Because knowing I have the option of a peaceful death when all else fails will improve the quality of the time I have left.

Debbie Stern
A supporter living with terminal cancers myelodysplastic syndrome and myeloproliferative neoplasm disorder, a type of leukemia
Williamsville, New York
Reason #49

Because preventing doctors from prescribing medication to a dying patient that they can take to end their lives peacefully causes unnecessary suffering and harm.

Jaime R. Torres, DPM, MS

Former Regional Director of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and president of Latinos for Healthcare Equality, Dr. Torres supports the New York Medical Aid in Dying Act.

New York, New York

Reason #50

So the last moments of a loved one’s life can be spent embracing them.

Ronald Thomas

Watched his husband, William Stubing, die without access to medical aid in dying.

New York, New York

Reason #51

Because even those who wouldn’t want medical aid in dying for themselves believe that the option should be available to everyone.

Emily Gallagher

Albany, New York
Reason #52

*So that despite the pain of losing a daughter, a father’s lasting memory can be of her peaceful death.*

Richard Friedberg
His daughter, Elinor, used medical aid in dying in Oregon
New York, New York

Reason #53

*Because a daughter who is a doctor shouldn’t have to risk her medical practice to help her father avoid needless suffering.*

Maggie Carpenter
New Paltz, New York

Reason #54

*Because medical aid in dying is not giving up on life, but allowing us to make our own decisions when the time comes.*

Geri Barish
Long Island, New York

Barish is pictured here with her son the night of his Bar Mitzvah, a week after she found out he had cancer. At the time, only she knew, she wanted her son and their family and friends to enjoy that special evening.
Bob Field
New York, New York

Reason #55
Because no New Yorker should have to die from choking on their own vomit when people in other states have the compassionate option of medical aid in dying.

Karin Johnson
Rockville Centre, New York

Reason #56
Because the decision about how to spend their last hours on this earth should belong to the person who is dying.

Raymond D. Smith, Jr.
New Paltz, New York

Reason #57
Because each year you fail to act, people without the compassionate option of medical aid in dying will suffer needlessly.
Reason #58
Because Black New Yorkers should have the power to determine what kind of care they want at the end of life.

Ayanna Jackson
Rochester, New York

Reason #59
Because families benefit when dying people can chart their own end-of-life journey.

Karis Wiggins
Syracuse, New York

Karis carries on the legacy of her father, Jim Wiggins, who advocated for medical aid in dying while facing several cancer diagnoses.

Reason #60
Because every year you fail to act, more New Yorkers suffer without this option. The next may be one of your constituents.

Advocates We’ve Lost

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