

Template: Letter to Editor in Support of the Massachusetts End of Life Options Act

Please ensure you check the paper's submission info to determine the requirements for letters to the editor, including word limit, and how to submit it, either via email or online.

Re: [Insert title of Editorial/Op-Ed/Story, Date Published]

Dear Editor:

- The COVID-19 crisis has exposed the profound tragedy of loved ones dying alone, in a hospital or nursing home, without the care and comfort of loved ones surrounding them.
- This pandemic also demonstrates the fragility of life, the limits of modern medicine to relieve suffering, and magnified the systemic racial disparities in our healthcare system.
- We must eradicate these disparities, so everyone has equal access to the full range of end-of-life care options.
- One small, but important step towards achieving this goal is to authorize medical aid in dying as an end-of-life care option for terminally ill, mentally capable adults in Massachusetts to peacefully end intolerable suffering.
- It would empower every state resident to make end-of-life care decisions based on their unique culture, beliefs, and spiritual values.
- These laws have improved care for many terminally ill people in the 10 other jurisdictions that allow medical aid in dying, by spurring doctor-patient conversations about all end-of-life care options, such as hospice and palliative care, and better utilization of them.
- [Insert a story about a loved one who suffered needlessly because they lived in a jurisdiction without the option of medical aid in dying, or loved one who lived in a jurisdiction with this option, so they used it to peacefully end their suffering, at home, surrounded by family].
- 70% of Massachusetts residents support medical aid in dying, according to a [November 2019 Boston Globe-Suffolk University poll](#), including a majority of those surveyed across the [demographic, ethnic, and geographic spectrum](#).
- That's why our lawmakers should pass the End of Life Options Act before the end of the year.

[Name]

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