

**2021–2022 Elections
& Medical Aid in Dying**
Supported by Your Voters



compassion
& choices

ACTION
NETWORK



The 2022 elections showed us that voters care about bodily autonomy as a basic human right. Consider these statistics:

- » 92% of legislators who sponsored medical aid in dying were re-elected.
- » 7 out of 10 Americans want the option of medical aid in dying.
- » Voters elected or re-elected at least 12 governors who publicly support medical aid in dying.
- » In the 25 years since Oregon passed the first medical aid-in-dying law, there have been zero cases of proven abuse or coercion across the 11 jurisdictions where medical aid in dying is authorized.

Supporting medical aid in dying is not just politically viable, it is politically desirable. The time has come to listen to your constituents: allow Americans to have the option of reducing their suffering at the end of life and bring medical aid in dying to every state.

Kim Callinan

President and CEO

Compassion & Choices Action Network

Introduction

In 2021 and 2022, our country entered a new phase in its response to COVID-19. Vaccinations, boosters and the cautious reopening of public spaces and resumption of personal interactions signaled a redefinition of healthcare and end-of-life care. Legislatures across the country debated familiar policies and pending bills, but from a post-COVID perspective. And legislators heard testimony from voters who had their own priorities. The pandemic brought a deeper understanding of the fragility of our lives and the importance of ensuring all Americans have the full range of end-of-life care options, including medical aid in dying as an option for terminally ill adults to peacefully end unbearable suffering.

Since 1994, ten states and Washington, D.C., have authorized medical aid in dying. Extraordinary momentum during the last five years (seven authorizations) continued into 2021–22, right through the most challenging days of the pandemic.

In 2021, Compassion & Choices, the Compassion & Choices Action Network and the New Mexico End-of-Life Options Coalition made history with passage of the Elizabeth Whitefield End-of-Life Options

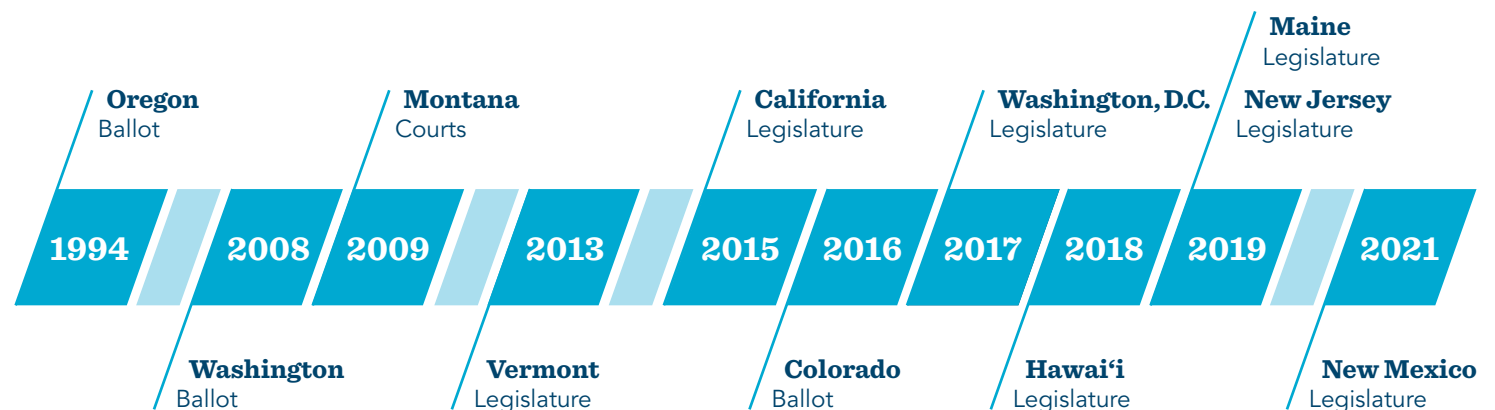
Act. Despite obstacles created by the COVID-19 public health crisis — or perhaps because of them — lawmakers responded to the will of the majority of New Mexico residents by passing legislation to give eligible terminally ill adults the option of medical aid in dying. Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham signed the bill into law on April 8, 2021.

Over the course of the 2021 and 2022 legislative sessions, 414 lawmakers from both sides of the aisle, in 26 legislatures in every region of the country, introduced or signed onto medical aid-in-dying bills as sponsors or co-sponsors.

What's clear from the data on two successive election cycles: there is little impact on re-election prospects for state legislative aid-in-dying bill sponsors. The re-election rate for 2018 was 92%; it increased to 95% in 2020 and held steady at 95% for 2022.

Constituents across the nation are thanking and reaffirming their lawmakers for introducing and supporting legislation that promotes patient autonomy by authorizing the practice of medical aid in dying.

Year in Which Medical Aid in Dying Was Authorized



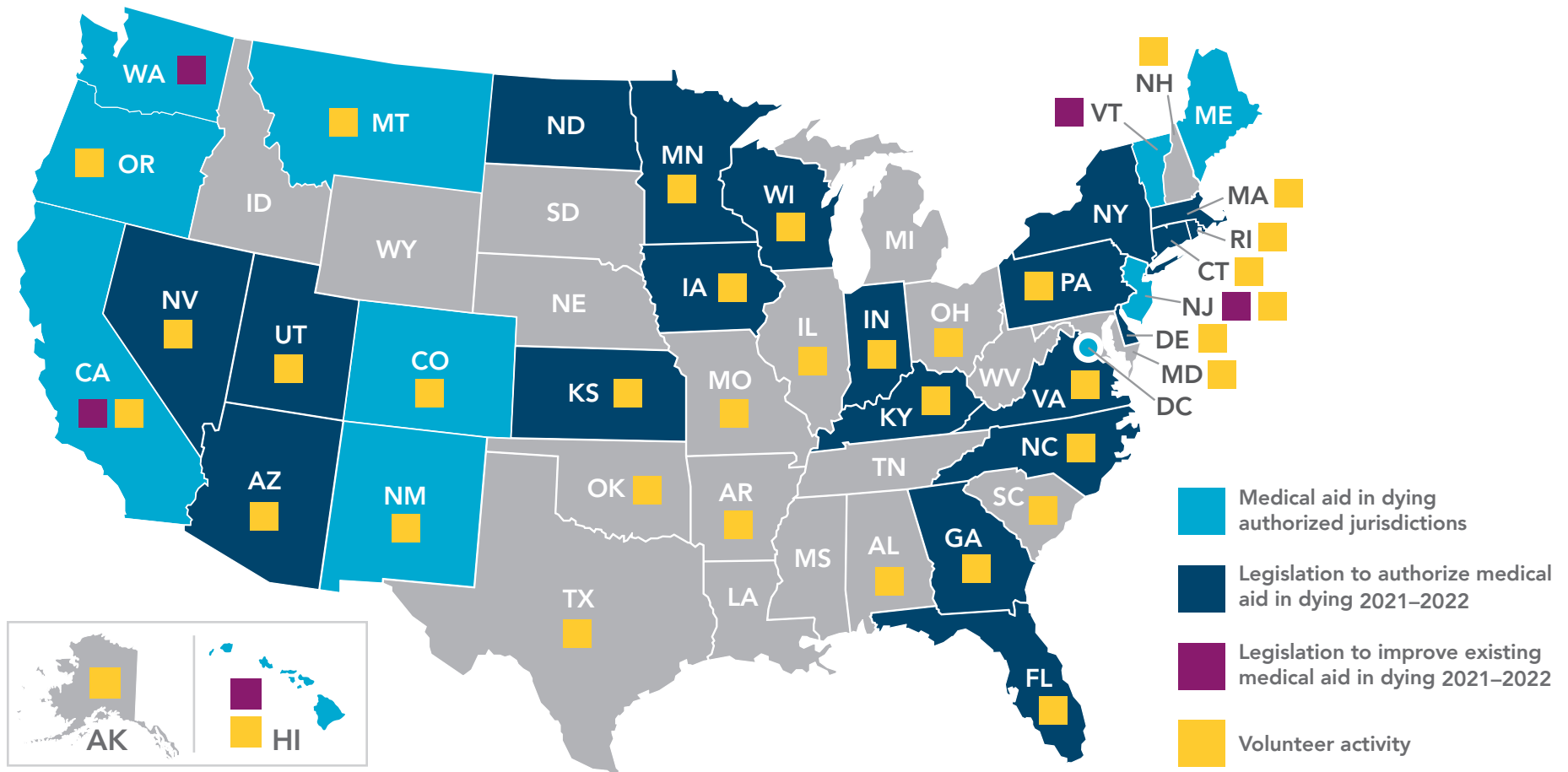
End-of-Life Options and the 2022 Elections

The end-of-life care options movement is growing strong. Ten states plus Washington, D.C., have authorized medical aid in dying via ballot initiative, legislation or state Supreme Court ruling. As a result, 1 in 5 adults in the United States currently have access to this peaceful end-of-life care option.

Among the 40 states where medical aid in dying was not authorized by the end of 2022, 65% (26 states), introduced legislation in either 2021 or 2022. This is an increase from 59% in 2020.




1 in 5 adults now live in a state where medical aid in dying is authorized.



Bill Sponsors/Co-Sponsors Retained Their Seats

The elections represented an opportunity for voters to express their approval or disapproval for legislators who carried medical aid-in-dying bills in 2021 and/or 2022:

- » 414 state lawmakers served as primary sponsors or co-sponsors of medical aid-in-dying bills introduced in 26 states.
- » Of the 337 sponsors and co-sponsors of medical aid-in-dying bills who sought re-election in 2022, 92% won, retaining their seats.



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Medical Aid-in-Dying Bill Sponsors/Co-Sponsors Re-Elected at High Rates

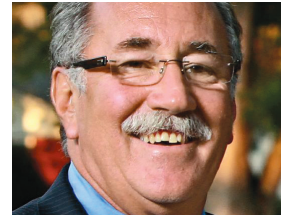
	OVERALL	SENATE	HOUSE
Re-Election Year	414	95	319
Seeking Re-Election	337	78	259
Retained Their Seats	310 (92%)	70	240
WON in Primary	96 (86%)	27	69
WON in General	310 (93%)	70	240

Voices From State Legislators



Connecticut State Rep. Jonathan Steinberg (D)
136th District

“Supporting autonomy at end of life isn’t just good, empathetic public policy, it’s also supported by a wide majority of voters in my district and across the state.”



Massachusetts State Rep. Jim O’Day (D)
14th Worcester District, First Division Leader

“Medical aid in dying is not a political issue — it is a quality of life issue. Massachusetts residents appreciate the importance of good healthcare and a fair quality of life; that is why 77% of Massachusetts residents support medical aid in dying.”



Connecticut State Sen. Saud Anwar, MD (D)
3rd Senate District

“The options afforded by aid in dying give comfort to some individuals on difficult end-of-life journeys. Further, as a doctor, I don’t want to deny other physicians the right to consider options aid in dying affords.”



Massachusetts State Sen. Jo Comerford (D)
Hampshire, Franklin & Worcester District

“At this most difficult time, a voluntary option for medical aid in dying respects patients by allowing them to assert their values and priorities as death approaches. I believe it is up to the individual to determine what quality of life means to them, and for physicians to support the dying person’s own decision.”



Delaware State Sen. Sarah McBride (D)
1st District

“As the caregiver to my husband throughout his terminal cancer, I’ve seen the pain that comes from the loss of agency over your destiny. We can ensure patient safety and protection while guaranteeing everyone the basic dignity of choice when facing the most human of tragedies.”



Minnesota State Sen. Kelly Morrison, MD (D)
45th District

“As a physician, I am proud to sponsor legislation that will bring much-needed relief to suffering, terminally ill Minnesotans.”



Hawai‘i State Sen. Roz Baker (D)
6th Senate District

“I have long been a supporter of citizens’ right to the full measure of end-of-life options, including medical aid in dying.”



Washington State Rep. Skyler Rude (R)
16th District

“I think this is really an issue of individual liberty. The decision when someone is suffering to end that suffering a little bit early — earlier than it would naturally happen — is something that I feel is completely reasonable.”

Americans Overwhelmingly Support Medical Aid in Dying

67% personally want the option of medical aid in dying.

Two out of three voters (67%) nationwide said if they "had an incurable, terminal illness, still had a sound mind, had less than six months to live and met the legal requirements," they would "want the option of medical aid in dying."

Voters are **8 times more likely "to vote for a candidate...if they sponsor or support legislation to have the option of medical aid in dying."**

Voter Preferences

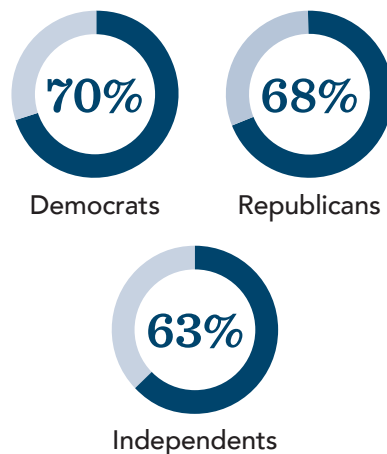
51% more likely to vote for

29% no impact

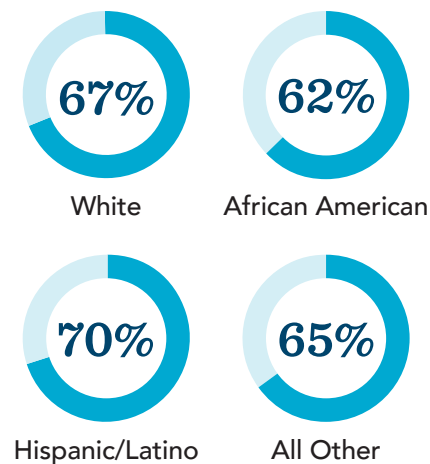
6% less likely to vote for

Support for personally wanting the option of medical aid in dying spans every group surveyed:

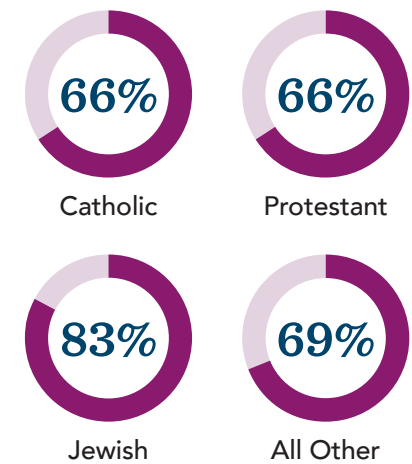
Support Across Different Political Parties (self-identified)



Support Across Different Races



Support Across Multiple Religious Affiliations



Source: Susquehanna Polling & Research, Inc. USA Omnibus - Cross Tabulation Report, November 2021

Election Results: Medical Aid-in-Dying Bill Sponsors

Of note: In known conservative states, such as Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, North Carolina, North Dakota, Utah and Wyoming, where aid-in-dying sponsors and co-sponsors were on the ballot, nearly all (15 out of 16) lawmakers were re-elected.

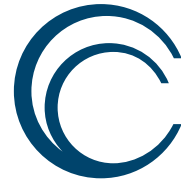
Across the country, a mere four aid-in-dying bill sponsors who stood before the general electorate were not re-elected. There is no evidence that medical aid in dying was a factor in any of those races.

State	Year of Legislation	Bill Name	Senate			House / Assembly		
			Bill Number	Primary Sponsor	Election Result	Bill Number	Primary Sponsor	Election Result
Connecticut	2021	An Act Concerning Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients	N/A			HB6425	Steinberg, Jonathan	Won
	2022					SB88	Steinberg, Jonathan	
Delaware	2021-2022	An Act to Amend Title 16 of the Delaware Code Relating to End of Life Options	N/A			HB140	Baumbach, Paul	Won
Hawaii	2022	Our Care, Our Choice Act; Advanced Practice Registered Nurses; Physician Assistants; Mandatory Waiting Period; Information	N/A			HB1823	Nakashima, Mark	Won
							Onishi, Richard	Won
							Lowen, Nicole	Won
							Hashimoto, Troy	Won
							Nakamura, Nadine	Won
							Belatti, Della Au	Won
							Ganaden, Sonny	Won
							Ichiyama, Linda	Won
Indiana	2021	End of Life Options	N/A			HB1020	Pierce, Matt	Won
	2022					HB1074	Pierce, Matt	
Iowa	2021	An Act Creating the Our Care, Our Options Act	N/A			HF475	Wessel-Kroeschell, Beth	Won
							Steckman, Sharon	Won
							Celsi, Claire	Won
			SF 212	Trone Garriott, Sarah	Won	N/A		
				Dotzler, William	Won			
Kentucky	2021	An Act Relating to Individual-Directed Care at the End of Life	N/A			HB506	Raymond, Josie	Won
		An Act Relating to Individual-Directed Care at the End of Life				Bojanowski, Tina	Won	
		An Act Relating to Individual-Directed Care at the End of Life				HB149	Raymond, Josie	Won
		Bojanowski, Tina				Won		
	2022	An Act Relating to Individual-Directed Care at the End of Life	HB149	Palumbo, Ruth Ann	Won			
			HB534	Kulkarni, Nima	Won			
Massachusetts	2021	An Act Relative to End of Life Options	N/A			H2381	O'Day, James	Won
			S1384	Comerford, Jo	Won	N/A		

State	Year of Legislation	Bill Name	Senate			House / Assembly		
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Minnesota	2022	Terminally Ill Adult End-of-Life Option Established		N/A		HF1358	Bierman, Robert	Won
						HF1358	Becker-Finn, Jamie	Won
						HF1358	Berg, Kaela	Won
						HF1358	Edelson, Heather	Won
						HF1358	Elkins, Steve	Won
						HF1358	Freiberg, Mike	Won
						HF1358	Frazier, Cedrick	Won
						HF1358	Her, Kaohly	Won
						HF1358	Hollins, Athena	Won
						HF1358	Lee, Fue	Won
						HF1358	Long, Jamie	Won
						HF1358	Morrison, Kelly	State Senate/Won
						HF1358	Youakim, Cheryl	Won
						HF1358	Olson, Liz	Won
HF1358	Reyer, Liz	Won						
Nevada	2021	Establishes provisions governing the prescribing, dispensing and administering of medication designed to end the life of a patient.		N/A		AB351	Flores, Edgar	State Senate/Won
New Mexico	2021-2022	Enacting the Elizabeth Whitefield End-of-Life Options Act				HB47	Hochman-Vigil, Dayan	Won
							Roybal Caballero, Patricia	Won
New York	2021-2022	Relates to the Medical Aid in Dying Act		N/A		A4321	Englebright, Steve	Lost
							Ramos, Philip	Won
							Hyndman, Alicia	Won
							Zinerman, Stefani	Won
							Paulin, Amy	Won
							Braunstein, Edward	Won
							Carroll, Robert	Won
							Burgos, Kenneth	Won
S3947	Savino, Diane	Lost Primary	N/A					
North Carolina	2022	End of Life Option Act		N/A		HB 780	Hardister, Jonathan	Won
							Harrison, Pricey	Won
							Faircloth, John	Won
North Dakota	2022	End of Life Health Care Decisions		N/A		HB1415	Dobervich, Gretchen	Won
							Hager, LaurieBeth	Won
							Schneider, Mary	Won
							Adams, Mary	Lost Primary
							Hanson, Karla	Won

State	Year of Legislation	Bill Name	Senate			House / Assembly		
			Bill Number	Primary Sponsor	Election Result	Bill Number	Primary Sponsor	Election Result
Pennsylvania	2022	Compassionate Assisted Dignified Death	SB405	Boscola, Lisa	Won	N/A		
Rhode Island	2021	The Lila Manfield Sapinsley Compassionate Care Act	N/A			H5572	Ajello, Edith	Won
							Kislak, Rebecca	Won
							Handy, Arthur	Won
							Hagan McEntee, Carol	Won
							Fogarty, Kathleen	Won
							Knight, Jason	Won
							Speakman, June	Won
							Donovan, Susan	Won
	Carson, Lauren	Won						
	2022	The Lila Manfield Sapinsley Compassionate Care Act	S2112	Zurier, Samuel	Won	H6600	Ajello, Edith	Won
				Euer, Dawn	Won		Kislak, Rebecca	Won
				Lawson, Valarie	Won		Handy, Arthur	Won
Acosta, Jonathon				Won	Hagan McEntee, Carol		Won	
Miller, Joshua				Won	Fogarty, Kathleen		Won	
Valverde, Bridget				Won	Knight, Jason		Won	
DiMario, Alana			Won	Speakman, June	Won			
N/A			Donovan, Susan	Won	Carson, Lauren		Won	
Utah	2022	End of Life Options	N/A			HB74	Dailey-Provost	Won
Vermont	2021	An Act Relating to Modifications to Vermont's Patient Choice at End of Life Laws	S74	McCormack, Dick	Won	N/A		
Washington	2022	Increasing Access to the Death with Dignity Act	N/A			HB1141	Rude, Skyler	Won
Wisconsin	2022	Compassionate Choices Act	N/A			AB552	Sinicki, Christine	Won
							Vruwink, Don	Lost
							Conley, Sue	Won
							Spreitzer, Mark	State Senate/Won
							Anderson, Jimmy	Won
							Baldehy, Samba	Won
							Snodgrass, Lee	Won
							Ohnstad, Tod	Won
							Subeck, Lisa	Won
							Hesselbein, Dianne	Lost Primary
Pope, Sindy	Retired							

Compassion & Choices is the nation's oldest, largest and most active nonprofit working to improve care, expand options and empower everyone to chart their end-of-life journey.



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