



ACCESS CAMPAIGN

**California End of
Life Option Act**

The Access Campaign

The California End Of Life Option Act was signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown on October 5, 2015 and went into effect on June 9, 2016. The law authorizes the practice of medical aid in dying for terminally ill, mentally capable adults. Passing the law was the first step. Now we have to support doctors and healthcare systems in honoring patient choices and educate Californians themselves so that everyone who is eligible and wants it has access to this option.

Compassion & Choices, the nation's oldest, largest and most active nonprofit working to improve care and expand options for the end of life, has more than 20 years experience helping to implement similar laws in Oregon (1997), Washington (2008), Montana (2009) and Vermont (2013). Based on this experience, we've launched the California Access Campaign:

- » To ensure that Californians **understand their rights** and can request the full range of end-of-life care options, including medical aid in dying.
- » To provide technical assistance and support to doctors so they will be **able to provide** the end-of-life care their patients want.
- » To provide support to healthcare systems so they **adopt policies** supportive of patient choice.

IN A YEAR ...



234,000
Californians Die



34,000
Terminally Ill Californians Will Ask Their Doctors
About Medical Aid in Dying as an End-of-life Option



1,500
Aid-in-dying Prescriptions
Will Be Written

THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA HAS ...



712
Hospices



100+
Continuing Care Retirement Communities



5,560
Pharmacies



384
Hospitals



100,000+
Doctors



8
Medical Schools

For Californians Facing a Terminal Illness

As part of its Access Campaign in California, Compassion & Choices has created a new website, EndOfLifeOption.org which is full of useful resources for Californians, including:

- » The one-of-a-kind [Find Care tool](#) that can be used to see the range of end-of-life services at nearby medical centers simply by entering the Zip Code.
- » A video for terminally ill people and their families who want to learn more about medical aid in dying and the California End of Life Option Act.
- » Answers to frequently asked questions about the California End of Life Option Act
- » Required state forms including a Patient's Request for Aid-in-Dying Drug, Final Attestation for Aid-in-Dying Drug and Interpreter's Declaration.

For Providers and Healthcare Systems

The California Access Campaign can provide technical assistance to healthcare providers so they can more fully support their patients. It can be difficult to discuss a patient's terminal illness and death — but it is crucial for physicians and pharmacists to knowledgeably consult directly with patients and caregivers about end-of-life options, including medical aid in dying.

For doctors

Compassion & Choices provides [Doc2Doc](#), a free, confidential telephone conversation with one of our medical directors. They are physicians with years of experience in end-of-life medical care including medical aid in dying. Call anytime at 800.247.7421 or email for information at doc2doc@CompassionAndChoices.org.

For pharmacists

Compassion & Choices' Pharmacist2Pharmacist service offers a free and confidential telephone conversation with a pharmacist in Oregon or Washington experienced with medical aid in dying. Call anytime at 503.943.6517 or email for information at p2p@CompassionAndChoices.org.

At its EndOfLifeOption.org website, Compassion & Choices also provides comprehensive resources for providers including:

- » A video for doctors who want to learn more about medical aid in dying and the California End of Life Option Act.
- » Answers to frequently asked questions about the California End of Life Option Act.
- » The current best practices on Clinical Criteria for Physician Aid in Dying and supplementary clinical information as published by the Journal of Palliative Medicine in December 2015.

- » The California Hospital Association End of Life Option Act Handout, a comprehensive guide for healthcare systems, hospices, physicians and pharmacists on the California law.
- » Sample policies and procedures for hospitals, continuing care communities and assisted living facilities.
- » Required state forms including the Attending Physician's Checklist & Compliance Form, Consulting Physician's Compliance Form and Attending Physician's Follow-up Form.

How to Get Involved

Want to get involved to help doctors and patients get all the information they need and ensure that everyone who's eligible and wants it has access to the law? There are several ways that you can join our efforts:

- » Join one of our volunteer teams to help get the word out about the law. If you haven't already, sign up at EndOfLifeOption.org/volunteer.
- » If you are a doctor or a medical provider, we'd love your help educating other medical providers or helping to connect us to the people in your network. You can email our California team at California@CompassionAndChoices.org to get started.
- » If you don't have time to volunteer with us, consider giving financial support to the efforts of those who will be educating the public and doctors. You can donate at EndOfLifeOption.org/donate.

Please visit Compassion & Choices California website at EndOfLifeOption.org. We are ready with information and resources to answer questions about the full range of end-of-life options, including medical aid in dying.



To request a presentation on the End of Life Option Act for your organization or group, please go to EndOfLifeOption.org and fill out the request form.