

DATE: 02.12.24

SUBJECT: The House votes TOMORROW! 

Preview: Email your representative today; tell them VA needs medical aid in dying now!

AUDIENCE: Virginia active supporters

Dear [First name or friend],

Great news! Our bill, HB858, was voted 12 -10 out of the House Committee on Health and Human Resources for a vote on passage tomorrow.

[Please take two minutes RIGHT NOW to reach out to your delegate and urge them to support this proven end-of-life care practice.](#) This is also where you have a chance to share your personal story of support for medical aid in dying. **It can take just one personal anecdote, one story, to touch the heart and change the mind of a lawmaker.**

By continuing to contact your lawmakers, you can make a huge difference for terminally ill Virginians.

[The House will vote on passage of HB858 tomorrow afternoon, so we need you to email your delegate today!](#)

Thank you so much for all you do, and I'll be in touch with updates soon.

With gratitude,

Melissa

Melissa Stacy (she/her)
Northeast Regional Advocacy Manager
Compassion & Choices

Letter to legislators:

Audience: Full VA House - constituents only

SUBJECT: Please support HB858

Dear [decision maker],

[Intro]: As a constituent and a volunteer with Compassion & Choices Action Network, I'm reaching out to ask you to support HB858, filed by Delegate Patrick Hope.

HB858 would give terminally ill, mentally capable individuals with 6 months or less to live the option to request a medication that they could self-ingest to die peacefully in their sleep.

[Body]: At its core, this legislation is about giving dying people the option to alleviate unbearable suffering, if they choose. The safeguards in the bill are strong and work. A version of this legislation has been authorized in the US for 25 years, and in that time there hasn't been a single substantiated case of abuse or coercion.

[Conclusion]: Please support this compassionate end of life option. I look forward to hearing from you on this legislation that is very important to me.

Sincerely,
[signer]

Sender: Izzy King, Compassion & Choices Action Network
Subject: Hearing Alert: Let's Pass the End-of-Life Options Act!!
Pre-header: 🚩 Act now, {{FirstName or 'friend'}}.
Audience: Illinois Wide Engagement
Send: TBD

{{FirstName or 'Friend'}}:

The Illinois End-of-Life Options for Terminally Ill Patients Act (SB 9) — which would authorize medical aid in dying for qualified terminally-ill Illinois residents — **is scheduled to be heard by the Senate Executive Committee on March 5 at 1:30 p.m. CST.**

We want to pack the hearing room with supporters. **Please reply to this email to let me know if you are able to join us.**

- **Location:** Illinois State Capitol Building, Room 212 - 401, S 2nd St., Springfield, IL 62701
- **Transportation:** There is limited free parking in the Visitor's Center parking lot off Edwards Street, one block west of the Capitol.
- **Entrance:** The east and west entrances to the Capitol Building have ramps located where steps and curbs may be obstacles.
- **Other:** Be prepared to wait in line for a security check. Have your photo ID ready.

It's also very important to have strong written support of the bill. **Even if you are able to attend the hearing in person, [please take a minute to submit a witness slip in support of the End-of-Life Options Act to the Senate.](#)**

SUBMIT A WITNESS SLIP IN SUPPORT OF MEDICAL AID IN DYING

- 1 Click each link above
- 2 Complete form with contact info
- 3 Choose "Proponent" in Section III
- 4 Select "Record of Appearance Only" in Section IV
- 5 Select "Create Slip" and that's it!



Our final ask, {{if --[[2025 - COMMITTEE CONSTITUENTS]] SavedSearch_XXXX}} as a constituent of a member of the Senate Executive Committee, is to [email your committee member\(s\) today and urge them to advance the bill to the floor while there's still time.](#) {{else}} is to [email your lawmakers today and urge them to pass the bill without delay.](#) {{end}}

I will update you ASAP on the outcome of the subject matter hearing and next steps in our work to make Illinois the 12th state to offer this compassionate end-of-life option.

With gratitude,

Izzy

Chloë/Izzy King
Senior Campaign Organizer
Compassion & Choices Action Network

Message to lawmakers:

Audience: SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

SD 22 - Cristina Castro
SD 2 - Omar Aquino
SD 18 - Bill Cunningham
SD 29 - Don Harmon
SD 15 - Napoleon Harris, III
SD 42 - Linda Holmes
SD 3 - Mattie Hunter

SD 4 - Kimberly A. Lightford
SD 28 - Laura M. Murphy
SD 47 - Neil Anderson
SD 41 - John F. Curran
SD 38 - Sue Rezin
SD 50 - Jil Tracy

Subject: Please report Bill SB9 favorably out of the Senate Executive Committee

Dear [elected official]

Intro: I am among the 71% of Illinois residents who support the end-of-life care option of medical aid in dying for qualified terminally ill individuals (Impact Research, Feb. 2023), and I urge you to report SB 9, the Illinois End-of-Life Options for Terminally Ill Patients Act, favorably out of committee.

If passed, medical aid in dying would allow a terminally ill, mentally capable adult with a prognosis of six months or less to live the option to request from their doctor a prescription for medication they can decide to self-ingest to die peacefully in their sleep. Participation in this practice is optional for patients and doctors. No person is required to use it. No doctor is mandated to provide it. It is illegal to force someone to use it. The option is only available to an adult who is able to make an informed health care decision and is able to take the medication themselves.

Body: A peaceful death should not be illegal, and no one deserves to endure unnecessary, unbearable suffering at the end of their life. This is an incredibly personal issue for me. I know friends and family members who had a difficult final chapter in their lives and could have benefited from having the option of medical aid in dying.

Conclusion: Medical aid in dying is currently authorized in eleven jurisdictions: Oregon (1994), Washington (2008), Montana (2009), Vermont (2013), California (2015), Colorado (2016), the District of Columbia (2016), Hawai'i (2018), New Jersey (2019), Maine (2019) and New Mexico (2021).

I urge you to support and pass SB 9 favorably out of committee without delay, giving your constituents access to this practice which is already available to 22% of Americans. Our terminally ill family members, friends and neighbors can not afford to wait any longer for this compassionate option.

You can read more about the polling I mentioned above here: <https://candc.link/ilpoll23>

I look forward to your support.

Sincerely,

Signee

Sender: Sam Trad, Compassion & Choices Action Network

Subject: Your lawmakers need to hear from you about end-of-life options, {{FirstName or 'friend'}}!

Pre-header: Urge your legislators to authorize medical aid in dying in Illinois

From: info@candcactionnetwork.org

Reply-to: strad@candcactionnetwork.org

Audience: Illinois supporters

Send: Week of September 16

Dear {{FirstName or 'friend'}},

We're still hard at work to pass SB 3499, the Illinois [End-of-Life Options for Terminally Ill Patients Act](#), and we need your help. [Will you take a moment today to tell your lawmakers, Rep. {{REP NAME}} and Sen. {{SEN NAME}}, to vote yes on SB 3499 to authorize medical aid in dying for qualified Illinoisans?](#)

SB 3499 would give terminally ill Illinoisans who qualify the option to end unbearable suffering and die peacefully on their terms. Illinois would join the growing number of states to authorize medical aid in dying and would be the first in the Midwest to allow this compassionate end-of-life option.

[\[SEND AN EMAIL NOW\]](#)

Personal experience and people power are the best tools in our advocacy toolbox. [Please email your lawmakers today using our easy form urging them to pass the bill without delay.](#) Be sure to share your personal story of support in your message — it could be your story that touches the heart of a lawmaker whose vote propels the bill to the governor's desk.

Terminally ill Illinoisans can't afford to wait any longer. Please contact your representatives in Springfield today and ask them to support SB 3499!

Sam Trad
National Director of Advocacy
Compassion & Choices Action Network

Message to Lawmakers:

Senate - Sponsors

[Sens. Linda Holmes - Cristina Castro - Laura Fine - Karina Villa - Mary Edly-Allen, Laura Ellman and Adriane Johnson]

Subject: Thank you for supporting medical aid in dying

Intro: As your constituent and a member of the 71% of Illinois residents who support the end-of-life care option of medical aid in dying for qualified terminally ill individuals (Impact Research, Feb. 2023), I thank you for your support of end-of-life care autonomy and medical aid in dying.

I am hopeful that you will prioritize and vote in support of the Illinois End-of-Life Options for Terminally Ill Patients Act to authorize this end-of-life care option for qualified terminally ill Illinois residents.

Body: For me, this issue is personal. I know friends and family members who had a difficult final chapter in their lives and could have benefited from having the option of medical aid in dying.

Conclusion: Medical aid in dying is currently authorized in eleven jurisdictions: Oregon (1994), Washington (2008), Montana (2009), Vermont (2013), California (2015), Colorado (2016), the District of Columbia (2016), Hawai'i (2018), New Jersey (2019), Maine (2019) and New Mexico (2021).

I urge you to vote to pass SB 3499, continuing your support for patient-directed care and bodily autonomy.

You can read more about the polling I mentioned above here: <https://candc.link/ilpoll23>

House + Senate

Subject: Please stand with the majority of IL voters and support legislation to authorize medical aid in dying in Illinois

Intro: I am among the 71% of Illinois residents who support the end-of-life care option of medical aid in dying for qualified terminally ill individuals (Impact Research, Feb. 2023).

I urge you to support SB 3499, the Illinois End-of-Life Options for Terminally Ill Patients Act, to authorize this end-of-life care option for qualified terminally ill Illinois residents.

Body: For me, this issue is personal. I know friends and family members who had a difficult final chapter in their lives and could have benefited from having the option of medical aid in dying.

Conclusion: Medical aid in dying would allow a terminally ill, mentally capable adult with a prognosis of six months or less to live the option to request from their doctor a prescription for medication they can decide to self-ingest to die peacefully in their sleep. Participation in this practice is optional for patients and optional for doctors. No person is required to use it. No doctor is mandated to provide it. It is illegal to force someone to use it.

I urge you to support and pass medical aid-in-dying legislation without delay, giving your constituents access to this practice which is already available to 22% of Americans. Our terminally ill family members, friends and neighbors can not afford to wait any longer for this compassionate option.

You can read more about the polling I mentioned above here: <https://candc.link/ilpoll23>