

To: All Interested Parties

Re: **Montana Poll Shows Overwhelming Support for “Medical-Aid-In-Dying”
Nearly 9 in 10 Oppose SB210 Which Criminalizes Physicians Who Honor Dying Wishes of Terminally Ill Patients**

MONTANA SURVEY OVERVIEW

FEB. 16, 2023

Susquehanna Polling and Research, Inc., recently rated the #1 most accurate firm in the USA by Real Clear Politicsⁱ, today released its latest Montana Statewide Voter Attitude Survey on behalf of its client Compassion & Choices, testing attitudes and opinions towards end-of-life-care decision making, including giving families the option to pursue medical-aid-in-dying under the direct supervision of licensed physicians. The poll is a random sample of 601 registered Montana voters, weighted to state Census data and balanced by geographic region, age, political party affiliation and other factors. Conducted Feb. 6-12 using live telephone agents, the poll includes interviews with N=601 voters and has a margin of error of +/-4.0% at the 95% confidence level. The key findings of the poll include the following:

- Seventy-five (75) percent of Montana voters believe a mentally sound adult with an incurable, terminal illness, who only has six months or less to live, should have the legal option to obtain prescription medication to pass peacefully in their sleep, known as “medical-aid-in-dying”. When respondents are asked if they want the option of medical-aid-in-dying personally for themselves, 74% responded in the affirmative. Support for medical-aid-in-dying as a personal option is broad-based and includes majorities of respondents in key voter groups, including:
 - 79% of self-identified Democrats, 72% of Republicans and 79% of Independents who are unaffiliated or have no connection to a major political party (and are technically a larger group than R’s or D’s).
 - 66% of “pro-life” voters on abortion, as well as 79% of “pro-choice” voters
 - 79% of gun owners
 - 75% of respondents who self-report living with a disability
 - 80% of progressive/liberal voters, 74% of self-identified conservatives and 72% of moderates
 - 75% of Catholics, 81% of Protestants (inc. Lutherans and Methodists) and majorities of voters in other religions or those with no religion at all
- When respondents are told Montana is one of 10 states giving terminally ill patients the legal option of medical-aid-in-dying, an overwhelming 83% agree [the] right should be protected. This includes strong majorities of respondents regardless of political party affiliation, status on abortion, gender, age cohort, or political ideology.
- Nearly 9 in 10 (or 88%) oppose legislation currently under consideration in the Montana State Senate (SB210) that would subject a physician to homicide charges for honoring the wishes of a terminally ill, dying patient by writing a prescription for [the] patient who requests the legal option of medical-aid-in-dying. Opposition is nearly universal across all key demographic groups – including 86% of pro-life voters, 88% of pro-choice voters, 94% of disability voters, 89% of gun owners, 89% of self-identified Republicans, 87% of self-identified Democrats and 87% of Independents unaffiliated with any political party.
- Montanans are strong believers in individual freedoms: By a 79:13 margin, they agree that terminally-ill patients with incurable diseases who have six months or less to live should have the personal freedom and legal right to dictate the terms of their dying [with the aid of medical-aid-in-dying].

ⁱ <https://www.realclearpolitics.com/rcp-pollster-rankings/2020/>