

# Medical Aid in Dying for the Terminally Ill Access Campaign

Compassion & Choices Access Campaign will educate the public and doctors, and provide technical assistance to healthcare systems, so that dying New Jersey residents have access to the full range of end-of-life options, including medical aid in dying.

## Access Campaign Goals

Our goal is that no matter what part of the state dying individuals are in or what healthcare system they belong to, their medical team fully informs them of their end-of-life options and supports them in their choices.

The Medical Aid in Dying for the Terminally Ill Act will go into effect on August 1, 2019. The Access Campaign offers valuable resources and is starting to educate the public and medical providers to make implementation a success.

The Access Campaign's three goals are:

- To ensure that residents understand their rights and can choose from the full range of end-of-life care options, including medical aid in dying.
- To educate doctors so they can inform their patients about the full range of end-of-life options and provide the care their patients want.
- To provide technical support to healthcare systems and hospices so they adopt policies and procedures supportive of patient end-of-life choice.

The Access Campaign is helping to ensure successful implementation of the Medical Aid in Dying for the Terminally Ill Act, which authorizes medical aid-in-dying. This campaign will transform the way end-of-life care is delivered by increasing end-of-life care conversations between doctors and patients, increasing hospice utilization and integrating medical aid in dying into the standard of care in the state.

## Access Campaign Resources

Compassion & Choices partners with government agencies, healthcare systems, hospices, medical associations, non-profit organizations and our vast network of volunteers and medical professional advocates to conduct community and provider trainings to ensure that all residents know about medical aid in dying as an end-of-life option and doctors can provide their patients with the full range of end-of-life care and choice.

Compassion & Choices has free [Doc2Doc](#) and [Pharmacist2Pharmacist](#) consultation lines for medical providers to receive the most up-to-date information and a medical provider advocate team, which will provide free

continuing medical education to medical and hospice facilities across the state. In addition, Compassion & Choices will conduct educational webinars and participate in medical association webinars and conferences.

We also will have a [Find Care Tool](#) on our website which assists people in choosing healthcare systems and hospices that will be supportive of patient decisions.

Also available at [www.CompassionandChoices.org/in-your-state/new-jersey](http://www.CompassionandChoices.org/in-your-state/new-jersey):

- [Videos](#) and resources for the public to understand medical aid in dying and other available end-of-life care options.
- Medical education [videos](#) on medical aid in dying as well as clinical criteria and articles as a resource to physicians.

Individuals should start having conversations now by asking their doctors whether they would write a prescription for aid-in-dying medication should a person become terminally ill and want to access the law.

The Compassion & Choices Access Campaign seeks to improve end-of-life care and reduce the suffering of dying people by providing support and education for a safe and successful implementation of the state's Medical Aid in Dying for the Terminally Ill Act.

## Legislative Support

The Medical Aid in Dying for the Terminally Ill Act was passed in the New Jersey State Assembly by a vote of 41 to 33 (with four abstentions), and passed the State Senate in an historic 21 to 16 vote. Hundreds of residents

submitted testimony on behalf of the bill as it made its way through the legislature.

Compassion & Choices worked for nearly seven years to help New Jersey residents authorize medical aid in dying in the state. We now plan to get to work to help implement the law so that those who wish to access this end-of-life option can do so.

Compassion & Choices, the nation's oldest, largest and most active nonprofit organization committed to improving care and expanding choice for the end of life, has more than 40 years of experience helping to pass and implement medical aid-in-dying laws in Oregon (1997), Washington (2008), Montana (2009), Vermont (2013), California (2015), Colorado (2016), District of Columbia (2017), Hawai'i (2018) and New Jersey (2019).

For more information please visit [www.CompassionandChoices.org/in-your-state/new-jersey](http://www.CompassionandChoices.org/in-your-state/new-jersey).