

SUPPORT SB 3499: ILLINOIS END OF LIFE OPTIONS FOR TERMINALLY ILL PATIENTS ACT

SPONSORS: Holmes, Castro, Fine, Villa, Edly-Allen, Gillespie, Ellman, Johnson

SB 3499 will allow a mentally capable, terminally ill adult with a prognosis of six months or less the option to obtain a prescription medication they may decide to take so they can die peacefully and end their suffering.

- Medical aid in dying is a trusted and time-tested medical practice that is part of the full spectrum of end-of-life care options, including hospice and palliative care.
- Medical aid in dying is authorized in 10 states and Washington, D.C. In the 26 years since the first medical aid-in-dying law went into effect in 1997 in Oregon, **there have been no substantiated cases of abuse or coercion.**

Criteria and Safeguards:

- + Qualified individuals must be able to self-administer (i.e., self-ingest) the medication.
- + Physicians must inform the requesting individual about all of their end-of-life care options, including comfort care, hospice, palliative care, and pain control.
- + No physician, health care provider or pharmacist is required to participate in the law.
- + The individual can withdraw their request for medication or change their mind after receiving the medication and decide not to take it.
- + An individual's providers may refer the person for a mental health evaluation to ensure the person's capacity to make an informed decision.
- + The law includes multiple protections to prevent coercion including strict eligibility requirements, two separate physician assessments, and mandatory counseling on all treatment options. The law makes it a felony to coerce someone to request the medication or to forge a request.
- + Life insurance payments cannot be denied to the families of those who use the law.
- + Healthcare providers who participate and comply with all aspects of the law are given civil and criminal immunity.
- + Healthcare providers must submit documentation of medical aid-in-dying deaths to the state health department, so it can compile an annual report for lawmakers and the public.
- + Death certificates list the terminal disease as the cause of death consistent with statutory language to provide accurate data and to prevent inappropriate suicide investigations.

**71% of Illinois
Voters
Support
Medical Aid in
Dying.**

*Source: Impact Research conducted a live phone and text-to-web survey of 700 likely 2024 voters in Illinois from February 6–12, 2023.
bit.ly/ILImpactResearchPollMAID2023*

**Most Illinois
Physicians
Support
Medical Aid
in Dying.**

*Source: Medscape hosted this survey on its platform for 15 days in 2021.
bit.ly/WebMdILLDocsMAIDpoll2023*

Additional Regulatory Requirements:

- + Two verbal requests for the medication directly from the patient, with a 5-day waiting period between the first and second request.
- + A written request is also required from the individual requesting medical aid in dying.
- + Prescribing physicians must comply with medical-record documentation requirements.
- + Unused medication must be disposed of according to state and federal law.

For more information please contact: Khadine Bennett (312.607.3355; kbennett@aclu-il.org) or Amy Sherman (224.251.0902 asherman@candcactionnetwork.org)

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS:

ACLU of Illinois

AIDS Foundation Chicago

Compassion & Choices Action Network Illinois

Final Options Illinois

Illinois NOW

National Association of Social Workers (NASW) – IL Chapter

National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) – Chicago North Shore Section

National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) – South Cook Section

Universalist Unitarians Advocacy Network of Illinois (UUANI)