



City of Reno
Human Rights Commission
September 17, 2020

Overview

1. The Compassion & Choices Vision
2. History of the Nevada Movement
3. Next Steps, Resources and Questions

my life.
my death.
my dignity.

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& choices



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Compassion & Choices Mission, Vision, History of the Movement

Our Vision:

A society that affirms life and accepts the inevitability of death, embraces expanded options for compassionate dying, and empowers everyone to choose end-of-life care that reflects their values, priorities and beliefs.



Medical Aid in Dying:

Medical aid in dying allows terminally ill adults to request and receive a prescription for medication that they may choose to take to bring about a peaceful death. To qualify, one must be mentally capable, able to self-ingest the medication and have a prognosis of six months or less to live.

Criteria:

- Be an adult, aged 18+
- Have a medically confirmed terminal illness with a prognosis of 6 months or less to live
- Be mentally capable of making an informed healthcare decision
- Be able to take the medication themselves

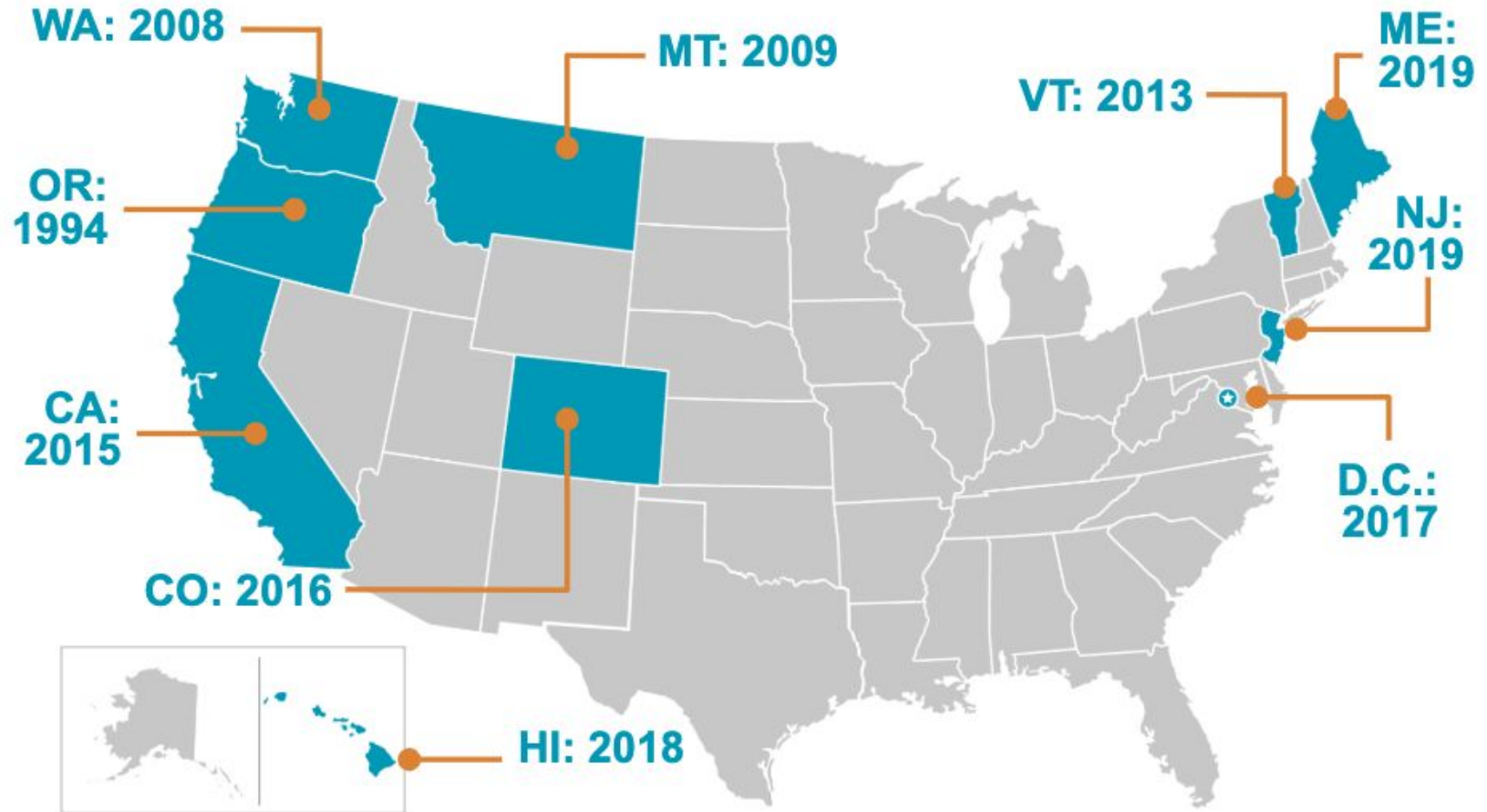
Safeguards:

- Prognosis must be confirmed by two health-care providers.
- Age or disability does not make someone eligible
- Two separate requests by patient with a 15-day waiting period between requests.
- A written request that is witnessed by at least one other person
- Must be assessed by a mental health professional
- Attending healthcare provider must inform the requesting person about ALL of their end-of-life care options, including hospice, palliative care, pain management, etc.

More safeguards:

- A patient can change their mind and withdraw the request or not take the medicine
- Any coercion is subject to criminal prosecution
- Life insurance payments can't be denied to the families
- No physician, healthcare provider or pharmacist is required to participate
- Healthcare providers receive civil and criminal immunity
- Unused medication must be disposed

Currently authorized states:



Eights states and Washington D.C.

- California (End of Life Option Act; approved in 2015/2016)
- Colorado (End of Life Options Act; 2016)
- Hawai'i (Our Care, Our Choice Act; 2018/2019)
- Maine (Death with Dignity Act; 2019)
- New Jersey (Aid in Dying for the Terminally Ill Act; 2019)
- Oregon (Death with Dignity Act; 1994/1997)
- Vermont (Patient Choice and Control at the End of Life Act; 2013)
- Washington (Death with Dignity Act; 2008)
- District of Columbia (Death with Dignity Act; 2016/2017)

Nevada

- 2017: Close! SB261: Passed one house
- 2019: Close again! SB165: Intro'd with 16 co-sponsors; passed Senate HHS 3-2; Ran out of time to pass the full Senate
- Outlook for 2021 is VERY GOOD: Bill sponsor is Assemblyman Edgar Flores (D-Las Vegas), Chair of the Hispanic Caucus, with many high-profile co-sponsors



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Care and Choice at the End of Life



“ I am proud to support Dolores Huerta in her endeavors to make the end of life more peaceful and give it the respect it deserves.”

– **NB**, 86 year-old Nevada advocate for expanded end-of-life options

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Help us make this a reality

Goals

- Build solid bench of legislative sponsors/supporters ✓
- Strengthen the support of lawmakers/key stakeholders ✓
- Identify and amplify storytellers
- Recruit and work with volunteers to be effective during the 2021 legislative session
- Generate grassroots support
- Identify allies and influencer groups
- Secure endorsements
- Lay the foundation for implementation



Questions?



Thank you!

compassionandchoices.org