

**Statement on House Bill 2279, Relating to the Oregon Death with Dignity Act**  
**Callie Riley, NW Regional Advocacy Manager, Compassion & Choices**  
**House Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee**  
**Monday, January 23rd, 2023 | 3:00pm**

Good afternoon Chair Nosse and members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Callie Riley, and I am the NW Regional Advocacy Manager at Compassion & Choices, the nation's oldest and largest organization working to improve end-of-life care, expand options, and empower everyone to chart their end-of-life journey.

We advocate for legislation to improve the quality of care for terminally ill patients and affirm their right to determine their own medical treatment options as they near the end of life. That's why I am here today in support of HB 2279, to remove a major regulatory roadblock to accessing the Oregon Death with Dignity Act.

Oregon is a leader in the end of life movement. Oregon was the first jurisdiction to authorize medical aid in dying. The law was amended in 2019, to find a better balance between safeguards intended to protect patients and access to medical aid in dying. We have another opportunity to be a leader in the end-of-life movement.

Compassion & Choices believes that medical aid in dying should be available to all qualified patients, regardless of their zip code. At present, the Oregon Death with Dignity Act contains statutory language that limits the use of the practice to in-state residents. However, firsthand experiences from doctors and patients, and decades of data, make it clear that the residency restriction within the Oregon Death with Dignity Act functions more as a barrier to access than as a safeguard.

The process of establishing residency in a new state while terminally ill is an extremely burdensome and expensive process that no one should have to endure. Further, the residency restriction is out-of-step with all other medical care provided in this country; Compassion & Choices has been unable to identify any other medical care that has been limited to in-state residents.

We urge your support of this critical legislation. Thank you again, Chair Nosse and members of the Committee.