

# CARING NOT KILLING

## Protection From Medically Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia

House Joint Resolution 28 passed on the last day of the 2024 Regular Legislative Session. This gives West Virginians the right to vote for or against protection from medically assisted suicide and euthanasia on the November ballot. A simple majority vote FOR Amendment 1 will be needed to make it part of our State Constitution. This will ban euthanasia, mercy killing and medically assisted suicide in West Virginia.

"Medically Prescribed Killing" laws have been adopted in ten states and in the District of Columbia, and there are efforts by the death peddlers to bring it to WV. The voiceless or marginalized in our society -- the poor, the frail elderly, racial minorities, people who lack health insurance -- would be the first to feel pressure to die. The passage of Amendment 1 would prevent these out-of-state groups from attempting to change our laws and endanger our citizens.

The last "Yes on Amendment 1" project in 2018 cost under \$50,000, and we narrowly won 52 to 48. However, we had very little outside money in the fight. This time will be different. The pro-euthanasia people are very well-funded, and are already active in the state with mailings. We will definitely need much more money to win this time. As an affiliate of National Right to Life, we are connecting with other states that have developed strategies and polling data to help us. However we will still need to raise the money here in WV.

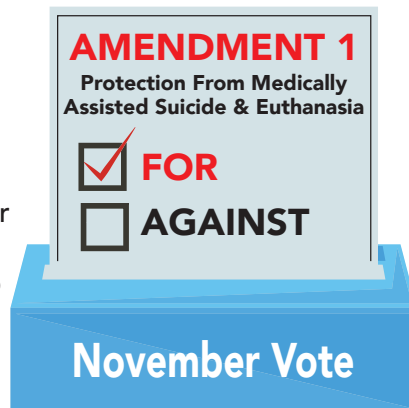


### Reasons Why Assisted Suicide Is Not Real Care

- **Deadly mix:** At \$300, assisted suicide will be the cheapest treatment. Medically Assisted suicide is a deadly mix with our profit-driven healthcare system.
- **Lack of psychological evaluation:** Of those who used assisted suicide in 2013 and 2014, fewer than 3% of people were referred for psychological evaluation, according to a report by the Oregon Public Health Division.
- **Burden:** According to the Washington State Department of Health, 13% who used assisted suicide in 2015 cited the financial implication of treatment and 52% stated they feared they were a burden to their family, friends and other caregivers.
- **No true safeguards:** The safeguards are hollow, with no enforcement or investigation authority.
- **Abuse:** An heir or abusive caregiver may steer someone towards assisted suicide.
- **Mistakes:** Diagnoses of terminal illness are too often wrong, leading people to give up on treatment and lose good years of their lives.
- **Unnecessary:** Everyone already has the right to refuse treatment and get full palliative care, including, if dying in pain, pain-relieving palliative sedation.
- **Lethal drugs unaccounted for:** Of the people who received lethal drugs in Washington State in 2015, 78% ingested the lethal drugs, 11% did not, according to a 2015 Washington State Department of Health Report. It is unknown what the remaining 11% did with the lethal drug or if any of the drugs were transferred to others.
- **Normalizes suicide:** Oregon's non-assisted suicide rate was 42% higher than the national average in 2012, a decade after assisted suicide was legalized there, according to the Oregon Health Authority.

### WE MUST PASS AMENDMENT 1.

If Amendment 1 fails, the opposition will come the following year and try to legalize MEDICALLY ASSISTED SUICIDE. Our pro-death opponents have a lot of money.



**PLEASE HELP US AS  
MUCH AS POSSIBLE!**