

I'm writing in support of the "Right to Try" bill that's coming up on the Senate Floor, and here's why.

If you had a terminal or disabling illness, how desperate would you be to find a cure? Would you fight to try experimental medications, even if there was no proof that they would work?

I've been there, and I know just how desperate patients can get.

Four years ago, I was suddenly hit with a rare variation of an eye disease that has no cure and ends in blindness. A treatment for age-related macular degeneration-- the much more common form of the disease that affects 180 million people in the world today—was finishing the FDA's safety testing phase. The drug halted the progression of the disease for virtually every patient in the trial and caused major improvement in over half. Patients who had been blind were now reading and driving. But I had no way to access the treatment.

It's been estimated that less than three percent of all patients can qualify for clinical drug trials, and I wasn't one of them. The FDA's compassionate and extended use exception can allow patients to take experimental drugs, but physicians must spend *one hundred hours* filling out applications for each patient. There were no realistic options for me then.

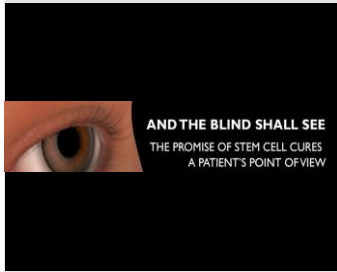
At the last minute, an existing drug worked to save my vision when no physician thought I had a chance. But such miracles are few and far between.

Patients in my situation should not need a miracle. Right to Try laws would permit terminally ill patients to get experimental treatments and drugs with the help of their doctors, and that's why I support them. On March 31<sup>st</sup>, HB 2300 passed unanimously through the Oregon House. The bill needs to go to the Oregon Senate now. I'm asking you to please support giving this law the chance to pass. It's way past time for patients to have a voice in their own right to try to save their lives.

Thanks so much,  
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Cathy Danielson In 2011, my life was shattered when I was diagnosed with a mysterious, incurable disease that always ends in blindness.

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