

**Statement on House Bill 2279, Relating to the Oregon Death with Dignity Act**  
**Callie Riley, NW Regional Advocacy Manager, Compassion & Choices**  
**Senate Judiciary Committee**  
**Wednesday, April 19th, 2023 | 1:00pm**

Good afternoon Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Callie Riley, I am a resident of NE Portland, and I am the NW Regional Advocacy Manager at Compassion & Choices. We're the nation's oldest and largest consumer-based organization working to improve end-of-life care, expand options, and empower everyone to chart their own end-of-life journeys.

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, which would remove the residency restriction from the Oregon Death with Dignity Act, following the 2022 settlement in the case *Gideonse v. Brown*.

At present, the Oregon Death with Dignity Act contains statutory language that limits the use of medical aid in dying to in-state residents. Compassion & Choices believes that the Oregon Death with Dignity Act should be available to all qualified patients, regardless of their zip code of residence. We have been unable to identify any other kind of medical care which is available to in-state residents while being denied to nonresidents in this way. As my colleague Amitai Heller will explain, this is out of step with the state's position on the provision of medical care in other cases.

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. Other jurisdictions, like Vermont, are also considering legislation to remove their own residency restrictions.

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