



compassion & choices

Support. Educate. Advocate. Choice & Care at the End of Life

My life. My death. My choice.

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**CONTACT: Steve Hopcraft, 916/457-5546;**  
**steve@hopcraft.com**

## **Washington Becomes Second State to Legalize Aid in Dying, Campaign has Moved Patients' Rights Forward:**

*Oregon experience shows aid-in-dying law benefits all at end of life,  
Provides comfort and control to terminally ill, ends violent deaths*

Seattle, WA – [Compassion & Choices](#), the national nonprofit organization working for better end-of-life choice and care, called the passage of Washington's I-1000, a "turning point on the path to human liberty. No terminal Washingtonian will ever have to shoot themselves or use other violent means again. We hope someday to be able to say the same for patients in the other 48 states," said the group's President Barbara Coombs Lee. "Dignity has prevailed over dogma,"

Lee said, "Opponents peddled lies and half-truths about Oregon's Death with Dignity experience, but voters weren't buying it. They decided end-of-life decisions are too personal, too precious and too sacred, to trust in the hands of government, politicians and a few religious leaders. Now, dying Washington residents can turn to legal aid in dying instead of feeling forced into violent, crude methods to end their suffering. We know when aid in dying is legal, end-of-life care improves for everyone. This happened in Oregon, and it will happen in Washington as well."

Lee pledged to continue working to bring choice to terminal patients in the 48 states where aid in dying remains illegal, "The people of Washington opted for individual liberty, personal autonomy and freedom of conscience. We will continue to fight for these values on behalf of terminal patients and their families in the remaining states. These battles champion truth over lies, dignity over dogma and free will over blind obedience."

Lee praised "thousands of volunteers who gave of their time, energy and money to support patient choice. Their dedication and labor was nothing short of heroic. All those who will die from this day forward, free and empowered with choices whether they exercise their right to death with dignity or not, owe them a debt of gratitude."

*Compassion & Choices news release, Washington I-1000 outcome, page 2*

*Compassion & Choices is a nonprofit organization working to improve care and expand choice at the end of life. As a national organization with over 60 local groups and 30,000 members, we help patients and their loved ones face the end of life with calm facts and choices of action during a difficult time. We also aggressively pursue legal reform to promote pain care, put teeth in advance directives and legalize physician aid in dying.*

***For more information please visit [www.compassionandchoices.org](http://www.compassionandchoices.org)***