

Good afternoon!

You may have seen that Governor Hochul last week addressed a reporter's question about signing the Medical Aid in Dying Act. You can see the story about her comment, and the response from me and our opponents in this [Spectrum Local News story](#). For those who can't open the link, I've pasted the relevant part of the article below my signature.

The following day, the capital region-based local news at Channel 10 did this news story: [Governor Hochul to Make a Decision on Medical Aid in Dying Before End of Year](#).

I've spent a lot of time reading tea leaves and making sense of rumors and chatter around this for the past several months, and Governor Hochul's comment signals to me that we may be waiting until the end of the year for a decision from her. That means we have to keep the pressure on.

Have you made your travel plans to join us at the Governor's office next week? If not, please RSVP today. We need as many of you in that room as possible!

WHAT: Demonstration and Sign-On Letter Delivery to Governor Kathy Hochul

WHEN: Wednesday, October 8, 2025 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

WHERE: New York State Capitol, Second Floor, State St. & Washington Ave, Albany, NY

HOW: Register to get updates by clicking this

link: <https://join.compassionandchoices.org/a/ny-letter-delivery>

This is just the beginning of our plan to escalate pressure on the Governor to sign the bill. We're going to need a strong crew of people at an in-person activity in NYC in November as well. If you are interested in learning more and joining us, please take a moment to fill out this [DOODLE POLL](#) to let us know when you might be able to join us in NYC/midtown in November. Once we see who's available when, we'll pick an exact date and provide you with more details. (Some of you who have attended my **Coffee with Compassion & Choices** sessions already know what this is about! If you want to register to attend the next one this coming **Friday, Oct. 3 at noon** by hitting reply to this email to tell me, and I will share the link when it's ready.)

ALSO IN THE MEDIA

If you haven't seen it yet, you should check out this letter from Kate Sanford and Amy Eilert to Governor Hochul: [Gov. Hochul: Our children died painfully without the option of medical aid in dying; please sign the Medical Aid in Dying Act into law!](#) This was published on [Medium.com](#), and amplified by Empire Report, the political newsletter for Albany insiders. You can help us further amplify it by "applauding" it on Medium and leaving a comment on that platform. Even if it's simply "I agree 100%! Governor Hochul, please sign the bill!" That will help us boost visibility. You can also like and repost it from both of these platforms:

- X/Twitter: <https://x.com/EMPIREREPORTNY/status/1970442258479542530>

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/share/1Ch1hC3p5S/>

IN THE COMMUNITY

This coming week, on October 6th and 7th, Fran and Daisy will be tabling at the [State Society on Aging of New York](#) 52nd annual conference at The Gideon Putnam Hotel in Saratoga Springs. If you are in the area or are willing to travel to volunteer for a shift, please email Fran at ftriest@compassionandchoices.org.

3 THINGS YOU CAN DO RIGHT NOW!

1. **Write a letter to the editor!** This is the best way to keep the issue of medical aid in dying in the news. If you need tips about how to write a letter, you can consult [this resource](#), or reach out to us (you can just reply to this email!)
2. **Send Governor Hochul another email** by [clicking here](#). Tell her you saw her comments in the press, and you are urging her to give terminally ill New Yorkers peace of mind by signing the bill now!
3. **Continue to circulate the sign-on letter!** If you have not yet signed, please add your name to the over 3,500 New Yorkers who have already added theirs. If you have not shared it with your networks, please do so! If each of us can add one or two more names, this list will double by the end of the week.

Here is the sign-on link:

<https://tinyurl.com/NYMAIDSignOn>

When you click it, you can find the most updated version of the list of signers

Lastly, our next **Volunteer Strategy Forum** will be **Wednesday, October 15 from 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM**. [Click here](#) to register to attend. We'll be talking about access work, and our plans for our super-secret November event!

And as always, if you haven't been able to join us lately, you can support the work of our campaign with a donation by [clicking here](#).

Thank you for all you continue to do. I look forward to seeing many of you in Albany next week in person!

Corinne

PS: Yesterday, September 30, I traveled to New York City to attend a hearing held by the New York State Assembly on creating legal pathways to access psilocybin. You can read a story about the hearing in Gothamist: [New York state already legalized marijuana. Could magic mushrooms be next?](#) Why is this relevant in this email? Psilocybin has been shown in a variety of studies to help ease end-of-life anxiety (see, e.g., <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/12/17/health/psychedelic-medicine-palliative-care-end-of-life.html>), and I was monitoring the hearing carefully to hear what the experts had to say about this. There's a tremendous amount of interest among lawmakers for doing something on this front in the coming years, so stay tuned!

Relevant excerpt from [Spectrum Local News story](#) re: the Governor's comments on the Medical Aid in Dying Act:

At the event, Hochul also addressed multiple hot button issues in a briefing with reporters. While Hochul rarely if ever indicates to members of the press how she will act on a pending bill, she was asked for insight into how she planned to make her decision on the highly controversial Medical Aid in Dying Act, which would legalize assisted suicide in terminally ill individuals with guard rails in place.

Many have suggested that Hochul, a Catholic, could ultimately be swayed by her own faith to veto the bill. Hochul made an effort to put that speculation to rest Friday in some of her most extensive comments yet on the bill since it passed both houses of the state legislature this spring:

“As governor we’re all products of our own circumstances and life influences, but I have to be very careful not to allow that to color my decision making when I’m making a decision not for myself but for 20 million New Yorkers,” she said. “I do have the ability and have many times embarked on this to separate my personal beliefs, my religious beliefs, but I always have a very solid moral code that never leaves me when I make decisions for New Yorkers.”

Advocacy groups on both sides of the issue responded to Hochul’s comments Friday.

Corinne Carey, campaign director for Compassion & Choices in New York and New Jersey urged Hochul to pay attention to recent surveys on the issue:

“We are confident that Governor Hochul will do the right thing and act in the best interest of New Yorkers. In poll after poll, voters have said – by better than two-to-one margins – they support New York authorizing medical aid in dying and providing terminally ill patients with bodily autonomy at the end of their lives.”

Multiple individuals experiencing terminal illnesses spoke with Spectrum News 1 last week pleading with Hochul to approve the legislation sooner rather than later given the medical implications.

While Dennis Poust, executive director of the NYS Catholic Conference, reiterated the organization’s recent statements encouraging Hochul to take her time in deciding whether to sign the bill which they strongly oppose.

“We deeply appreciate Governor Hochul giving this decision the weight it deserves. It is a matter of life and death, after all. We are confident that, ultimately, she will come to the same conclusion as the American Medical Association which called assisted suicide ‘incompatible with the physician’s role as healer’ and said it ‘would be difficult or impossible to control,’ and would pose serious societal risks.”

The Center for Disability Rights likewise expressed appreciation that Hochul is “thoroughly examining the issue” and urged her to veto the legislation given what

they described as an increased risk of abuse faced by disabled and aging New Yorkers.

You are receiving this message because you have expressed interest in receiving updates on end-of-life care initiatives in New York. If you no longer wish to receive Compassion & Choices end-of-life care messages in New York, please respond "unsubscribe" to this email, and you will be removed from this contact list within 10 days. If you would like to join Compassion & Choices' full mailing list to receive all updates, [sign up here](#).

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Corinne Carey
NY & NJ Campaign Director