



**ALLIANCE OF NEW YORK STATE YMCAs
YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT
Legislative Bill**

Bill # 10

**Referred to Committee:
4**

Authors: Elizabeth Blackwell Middle School

Action on the Bill

WWW.YMCANYS.ORG/YAG

Assembly

Senate

___ Passed

___ Passed

___ Defeated

___ Defeated

AN ACT TO: To allow terminally ill people the right to die with dignity.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: The purpose of this bill is to create a bill in New York that allows terminally ill people the right to die with dignity. This bill would be similar to other laws that exist in other states in the United States, including California, Colorado, Oregon, and Vermont.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

To die with dignity means giving patients who have a disease that has no cure the right to die. More specifically, it is defined as, "terminally ill patients should have the right to assisted suicide, because it is the best means for them to end the pain caused by an illness which no drugs can cure. A competent terminal patient must have the option of the assisted suicide because it is in the best interest of the person." This explains the point of right to die. This bill just empowers the patient to have a choice.

Dying with dignity is a step that allows the death to come in a peaceful way. More specifically, "dying with dignity is a movement that promotes the ability to meet death on your own terms. Dying with dignity involves offering options to a terminally ill patient, other than just waiting for the illness to kill them with pain slowly. There are 2 major ways to die with dignity: suicide and euthanasia.

There are two types of euthanasia, passive and active. Passive euthanasia occurs when the patient dies because the medical professionals either don't do something necessary to keep the patient alive or when they stop doing something that is keeping the patient alive. The patient is still aware that they are going to die. Active euthanasia is when death is brought about by an act. For example, when a person is killed by being given an overdose of a drug such as painkillers.

The right to life means, "every human being has the inherent right to life. This right shall be protected by law. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life. Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of the person and the right not to be deprived thereof except in accordance with the principles of fundamental justice."

Section 2:

In Oregon, the Death with Dignity Act allows terminally ill Oregonians to end their lives through the voluntary self-administration of lethal medications expressly prescribed by a physician for that purpose. The Act was a citizens' initiative passed twice by Oregon voters. This bill suggests that New York should establish a similar law that was passed in Oregon. It emphasizes that terminally ill patients should have the right to choose to die. It is not pressuring the patient to die. This bill is giving them the choice to die peacefully rather than suffering psychologically and physically.



**ALLIANCE OF NEW YORK STATE YMCAs
YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT
Legislative Bill**

Bill # 10

**Referred to Committee:
4**

Authors: Elizabeth Blackwell Middle School

Action on the Bill

WWW.YMCANYS.ORG/YAG

Assembly

Senate

___ Passed

___ Passed

___ Defeated

___ Defeated

1 **Justification**

2 Many people think that euthanasia is unconstitutional because it is against the right to life. A recent Supreme Court
3 decision has actually supported this argument. Although the Supreme Court has disagreed, they left the right to die
4 up to **each** state to decide on their own. The 14th amendment to U.S. Constitution states that, "nor shall any state
5 deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law nor deny any person within its jurisdiction
6 the equal protection of the law. We suggest this supports a person's right to die. The right to die is not a criminal
7 matter if it is a person's personal health matter that effects their life.

8
9 **Fiscal Implications**

10 This bill will have a financial impact on New York State residents. New York State would have to provide the cost for
11 life ending medication. In California it has cost them \$2.3 million for medication under a similar bill. We believe due
12 to similar population numbers, it will cost New York approximately the same or less. However, we believe in long term
13 it will save the state money and expenses for long-term care that will no longer be needed that choose this option.
14 We would like to emphasize, not to be callous, to save money would not be forced to choose. In other countries these
15 numbers have increased throughout the years. Thousands of people have used this right and it has increased over
16 the years.

17
18 **Effective Date**

19 Similar bills in other states have ranged from 10 to 20 years to go into effect. Based upon this information, we would
20 like bill to go into effect immediately upon passage.