



Dear friends,

Euphoria followed by heartbreak! **New Jersey's wonderful new Medical Aid In Dying (MAID) law went into effect on August 1st**, making this compassionate option available to suffering terminally ill people for the first time in a large eastern state. But literally just yesterday a local judge granted a temporary restraining order halting implementation of the law. New Jersey governor **Phil Murphy**, who signed the law in April, vowed to fight this absurd and unjustified ruling. Read about the law going into effect at [CBS New York](#) and [US News & World Report](#), which has a great [state-by-state explanation](#) of the details, and read about the [latest development](#) at CBS New York.

Here's two powerful and profound things to watch! First, now streaming on the cable channel HBO, there's the program "**Alternate Endings: Six New Ways To Die In America**". It's a fascinating and thought-provoking look at people taking control of their own dying process, including an extensive section featuring **Dick Shannon**, a Californian terminally ill with lung cancer, who uses the Medical Aid In Dying (MAID) law to end his life peacefully before his suffering becomes intolerable. [Watch it here](#) or on your smartphone or TV, and if you don't subscribe, you can set up a [7-day free trial](#).

And don't miss the story of **Will Pegg**, a Canadian dying in excruciating pain of prostate cancer which metastasized to his spine, and featuring **Dr. Stefanie Green**, a prominent doctor explaining the tremendously wonderful Canadian aid in dying law, now in effect for more than three years. It was published on WebMD in January. [Watch it on YouTube here](#).

### **We've got some important events coming up!**

On **Wednesday August 28th**, the Chicago Bar Association and Women's Bar Association are presenting **End of Life Options**, billed as a "serious and passionate discussion", and featuring elder-law attorney **Eric Parker** and Compassion & Choices regional campaign manager **Amy Sherman**. It's from noon to 1:30 at the CBA headquarters at 321 South Plymouth Court in downtown Chicago. [Click here to register](#). Note: attorneys can get CLE credit.

On **Sunday September 8th** and **Tuesday September 10th** we're sponsoring two more showings of the magnificent film [How To Die In Oregon](#). The September 8th showing is at 2:00 pm at the Arlington Heights Public Library at 500 North Dunton Avenue, and the September 10th showing is at 7:00 pm at The Art Theater, 126 West Church Street, in Champaign. We show this movie a lot, and I never get tired of watching it. It perfectly illustrates what our movement is about -- providing a compassionate option to the dying.

On Monday September 23rd, The Village Chicago is sponsoring a panel discussion **The New Age of Dying: Fifty Years After Kubler-Ross**, featuring **Kim Callinan**, CEO of Compassion & Choices, **Loretta Downs**, founder of Chrysalis End of Life Inspirations, and **Peter Steeves**, professor of philosophy at DePaul University. It's at 6:00 pm at the Olson Auditorium of the Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center, at 836 West Wellington Avenue in Chicago.

Last but far from least, Compassion & Choices president **Barbara Coombs Lee** will be speaking on her new book, **Finish Strong: Putting YOUR Priorities First At Life's End** on two dates in October -- at 2:30 pm on Sunday October 6 at the Chicago-Kent School of Law, 565 West Adams Street, in downtown Chicago, and at 7:00 pm on Monday October 7, at the Alumni Center of Illinois State University, at 1101 North Main Street, in Normal. The book is a fascinating read, based on Ms. Coombs Lee's decades as a clinician, caring for dying patients who suffered needlessly, and decades more as an advocate, empowering people to avoid that fate. Buy a copy today at your favorite bookstore including [Amazon](#) and [Women & Children First](#).

Full details on these events and more are on the [Calendar page](#) on the Final Options Illinois website, and on the [Facebook page](#) of the Illinois End of Life Options Coalition.

### **The Time Is Now**

Folks, our movement is on an upswing. We are going strong, growing, and things are percolating. And the most common question people ask when we talk about aid in dying is, when are we in Illinois going to get an aid in dying law? If you want to make this happen, there are some very specific things to do.

- Send a contribution to [Compassion & Choices](#). It's our largest and most effective group, it's fighting all over the U.S., and it's the single biggest reason why we've gotten this far. Now that C&C has come into Illinois in a big way, all of us need to

support it.

- [Become a volunteer](#) for Compassion & Choices. We're creating "action teams" all over the state. Sign up and we'll get you plugged in.
- Send a contribution to [Final Options Illinois](#). FOI is funding much of our joint work with C&C, so by supporting FOI you are supporting the broader movement. And all funds raised by FOI are spent to advance the aid in dying cause right here in Illinois! [Click here to contribute by credit card](#), or mail checks to Final Options Illinois, 1055 West Bryn Mawr Ave. #F212, Chicago IL 60660. No amount is too small ... and no amount is too large. Please contribute as generously as you can.

Prospects for aid in dying legislation in Illinois have never been so favorable, so now is the time to come forward and volunteer. On behalf of the board of Final Options Illinois, thank you so very much.

*Ed Gogol*, President

Final Options Illinois

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