



**The Fairfax County Democratic Committee  
Supports End-of-Life Care Including Medical Aid in Dying**

**Whereas,**

Medical aid in dying allows terminally ill adults to request and receive a prescription for medication they may use to peacefully end suffering at end of life. To qualify, one must be mentally capable, able to self-ingest the medication and have a prognosis of six months or less to live.

Terminally ill Virginians should have control over their own end-of-life care decisions. Too many people suffer needlessly, endure unrelenting pain, or resort to violent means at the end of life when medical aid could help them die peacefully and on their own terms.

As of March 2021, nine other states and Washington, D.C. have authorized medical aid in dying. Each state statute includes numerous safeguards to ensure the laws are implemented safely and compassionately. Annual studies of such laws have yet to reveal any abuse nor the need for refinement.

Seven in ten (70%) Virginians support medical aid in dying, including a majority of every major demographic, from Republicans (60%) to Democrats (81%), Catholics (60%) to Protestants (68%) and other Christians (67%), young (18-24, 68%) to old (55+, 64%). Support for legalizing this end-of-life option is found in every corner of the Commonwealth (Northern Virginia, 64%; Richmond/Central, 78%; Hampton Roads, 75%; and Southside/Southwest/Valley, 65%), in every different type of community (large city, 73%; suburb near a city 76%; town or small city, 66%; and rural, 62%).

As the above data evinces, the majority of Virginians agree that terminally ill Virginians should have access to the full range of medical options at the end of life, including medical aid in dying.

**Therefore, be it resolved that the Fairfax County Democratic Committee:**

1. Expresses our strong support for end-of-life care, including medical aid in dying; and
2. Respectfully requests the Fairfax County delegation to the General Assembly to legalize access to this important and compassionate option for the terminally ill by sending this legislation to the Health, Welfare, and Institutions Committee (Chair: Mark Sickles) for a vote before advancing to the full General Assembly in the next legislative session.

**PASSED and APPROVED on this 23rd day of November 2021.**