

compassion & choices

MAGAZINE
SPRING 2019

New Jersey Will
Make Nine!

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“Finish Strong” With
Barbara Coombs Lee’s
New Book

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Building Bridges
With Diverse
Communities

.....

Hawaii’s Law
Goes Live

Five Questions for Richard Chamberlain

*The celebrated actor takes pride in
his contribution to the end-of-life
options movement*

Susan Woods
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Care and Choice at the End of Life



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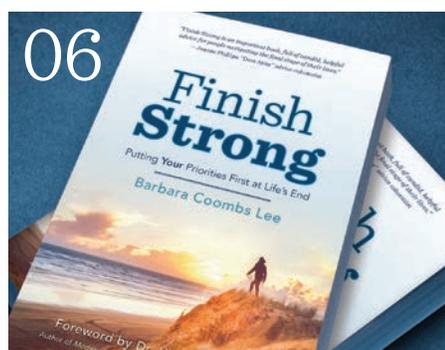
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Compassion & Choices improves care, expands options and empowers everyone to chart their own end-of-life journey. Learn more at [CompassionAndChoices.org](https://www.compassionandchoices.org).



Finish Strong (... by Starting Now)

I'd like to dedicate this issue to the courageous storytellers we lost in 2018 and to the gracious legacy donors whose contributions allow our progress to continue. They stand as heroes of our movement — the people whose voices make the urgency of our mission tangible and whose contributions allow us to continue our work beyond their lifetime. We carry forward in their honor and with the consciousness that many of them did not realize the peaceful and compassionate end they desired.

That is why I am delighted that in January, Compassion & Choices published Barbara Coombs Lee's new book, *Finish Strong: Putting Your Priorities First at Life's End*. This book strives to empower each person to live their final chapter in a manner consistent with their values, no matter where they live. It recognizes that while we are changing laws and medicine, we can't lose sight of helping those who need it now.

You'll hear more about Barbara's book in this issue and about other strong finishes that require early starts: implementing the Hawai'i law, which went into effect the first of the year after decades of work; advancing and defending other laws nationwide; and gaining traction with new audiences that wouldn't have given us a second glance in decades past. It all takes perseverance, conviction in the gravity of our mission and time — sometimes lots of it. I feel beyond grateful to have the strength each of you adds to keep us pushing ahead.

Kim Callinan
Chief Executive Officer

P.S. Just as we were finalizing this edition of the magazine, we passed medical aid in dying through the Legislature in New Jersey ([see page 4](#) for the full story)! It's fitting that this issue was dedicated to our storytellers, as if not for their efforts, we would not have realized this victory.

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words & pictures

Governing Magazine

"The Growing Acceptance of Medical Aid in Dying"

(Nov. 26, 2018)

bit.ly/ccgoverning

Governing Magazine published an op-ed by Compassion & Choices CEO Kim Callinan explaining why lead sponsors of medical aid-in-dying bills were overwhelmingly re-elected last November: "For decades, lawmakers feared that sponsoring medical aid-in-dying bills that would allow terminally ill adults to have the option to peacefully end their suffering would harm their chances of getting re-elected. This year's elections proved those concerns false."

The Washington Post

"She Fought Cancer and Congress for D.C.'s Right-to-Die Law. Would She Be Able to Use It?"

(Dec. 25, 2018)

bit.ly/maryklein

Mary Klein became the face of the campaign to bring medical aid in dying to Washington, D.C., after spending hours educating officials and appearing in dozens of media stories. The Washington Post recounted Mary's journey of requesting and ultimately receiving the medication to end her suffering: "We were walking on air," said Mary's wife, Stella Dawson. "Mary, from the very beginning, said she didn't want to die in immense pain, and she wanted self-determination."

Honolulu Civil Beat

"He Fought For Hawaii's Aid in Dying Law. Now He Wants To Use It."

(Jan. 2, 2019)

bit.ly/johnradcliffe

In January, John Radcliffe, a Compassion & Choices volunteer and lobbyist, became the first person in Hawai'i to request a prescription under the new Our Care, Our Choice Act. Radcliffe told Honolulu Civil Beat, "Now the question is, 'Do you want to suffer?' And I don't want to suffer. I've seen it, I've been doing it and I don't like it." Radcliffe doesn't plan to use the medication immediately but is thankful for the peace of mind it provides.

Albuquerque Journal

"Let's Stand for Aid-in-Dying Law"

(Jan. 20, 2019)

bit.ly/cchuerta

When New Mexico launched the legislative session and introduced the Elizabeth Whitefield End of Life Options Act, civil rights activist and Compassion & Choices Latino Leadership Council member Dolores Huerta penned a moving op-ed urging legislators in New Mexico to pass the bill. "I urge members of the Legislature to stand with the majority of la gente of New Mexico, and work together as a community to hear the voice of terminally ill New Mexicans whose last wish in life is to die peacefully without unbearable, unnecessary suffering. Si Se Puede – Yes We Can."



New Jersey Bill Moves Toward a Win!

Wide margin victory in both houses of the Legislature takes the New Jersey Medical Aid in Dying for the Terminally Ill Act to the governor's desk for signature.

Advocates, lawmakers, supporters and Compassion & Choices' staff are celebrating an incredible victory for expanded end-of-life options for the residents of New Jersey. On March 25, 2019, the Assembly approved the New Jersey Medical Aid in Dying for the Terminally Ill Act (A1504/S1072) by a 41-33 vote and the Senate by a 21-16 vote. If Gov. Phil Murphy signs the bill or does not act on it within 45 days, the bill becomes law.

In a statement issued just minutes after the Senate vote, Murphy stated, "Allowing terminally ill and dying residents the dignity to make end-of-life decisions according to their own consciences is the right thing to do. I look forward to signing this legislation into law." When he signs the bill, New Jersey will become the eighth state and ninth

jurisdiction to authorize medical aid in dying. The Medical Aid in Dying for the Terminally Ill Act was originally introduced in 2012 and twice passed the full Assembly (in 2014 and 2016) before ultimately stalling in Senate Committee.

Compassion & Choices' New Jersey team, led by Campaign Director Corinne Carey and Campaign Manager Amanda Cavanaugh, spearheaded an aggressive public education, advocacy and lobbying campaign that ultimately pushed the effort across the finish line. They cultivated relationships and enlisted great minds and voices from across the state, including longtime lawmaker Assemblyman John J. Burzichelli, who has championed the bill since 2012.

"I never wavered in my commitment to ensure terminally ill New Jerseyans would get the option to peacefully end their suffering. But we could not have passed this bill — and secured Gov. Murphy's support — without the relentless grassroots campaign by Compassion & Choices and its volunteer advocates," stated Assemblyman Burzichelli.



left: NJ-based volunteer storytellers watch anxiously as the state Assembly vote to approve the bill. center: The NJ Assembly vote board shows a winning vote (41-33-4) to approve the medical aid-in-dying legislation. top right: Burzichelli addresses his colleagues just prior to their affirmative vote. bottom right: Compassion & Choices volunteer advocates and members of our NJ political affairs team show their appreciation to lawmakers.



The New Jersey team ran an exceptional social media campaign and hosted events that engaged communities across the state. Hundreds of volunteers and supporters attended lobby days during the campaign and participated in a “Week of Action” before the March 25 vote. The stories of 20 volunteer advocates were shared directly with lawmakers via email and through social media in a “story-a-day” effort leading to the vote. Perhaps most impactful were videos from Susan Boyce, sisters Laurie and Melissa Wilcox, Jessica Guenzel, and Debra Dunn, who generously shared their personal stories of terminal illness and their desire for a full range of end-of-life options in their final days.

Compassion & Choices’ efforts were not stifled by a well-funded and aggressive opposition. Attempts to spread misinformation were successfully met with facts, truth and data. New Jersey lawmakers received messages from their constituents across multiple channels, including TV, radio, print and online media, and targeted efforts by Compassion & Choices. Staff worked with Dr. Deborah Pasik to distribute an opinion piece she wrote — and was signed by 25 New Jersey doctors — in response to a letter from the opposition. Compassion & Choices hosted two webinars for lawmakers, which included national experts who spoke to how medical aid-in-dying bills are

working effectively in authorized states. Compassion & Choices CEO Kim Callinan appeared on *NJ Today* with chronically-ill advocate Laurie Wilcox, and Corinne Carey participated in a live web-streamed *NJTV/NJSpotlight* panel discussion on end-of-life care alongside New Jersey Commissioner of Health Dr. Shereef Elnahal.

Passing the law is only our first accomplishment, and inevitable challenges lie ahead in New Jersey. As we have seen in states like California, Colorado and Hawai‘i, our opposition does not give up when a law is passed. History demonstrates, their efforts will now turn to blocking implementation and reversing the law. As soon as Gov. Murphy signs the bill, Compassion & Choices will initiate an implementation and access campaign, working with medical systems, healthcare providers and consumers so everyone understands the new law. Our goal is to ensure the eligible people of New Jersey have meaningful access to this and other compassionate end-of-life options.

When Gov. Murphy signs the bill, New Jersey will become the eighth state and ninth jurisdiction to authorize medical aid in dying.

Book of a Lifetime

Decades of experience facing issues around dying inform Barbara Coombs Lee's *Finish Strong: Putting Your Priorities First at Life's End*.

Compassion & Choices President Barbara Coombs Lee's latest book officially launched in January to stunning reviews and an eager audience. Following is an abridged excerpt from the triumphant *Finish Strong* about her early inspiration for a life of bold leadership:

For more than 20 years, before I went to law school and became a public advocate, I worked in every imaginable clinical setting. I did public health on the streets of Harlem. I did night shifts in nursing homes. I rode with EMTs and the fire department in Seattle and administered CPR in unexpected places like the bleachers of football stadiums.

I did witness people die.

I was struck very early by the vast disparity of these deaths. None of them was easy to witness, but some were especially unsettling, and Otto's was perhaps the most unsettling of all. In fact, Otto became an archetype for me — an archetype of the kind of death none of us want.

Otto was in his mid-60s with advanced emphysema. He was dark-haired and gaunt, with hooded eyes in a sallow and wasted face. His fingers were stained with nicotine and his shoulders were set in a slump.

Before getting sick, he'd been a skilled metal worker in upstate New York. Now he was dying in a teaching hospital in Manhattan.

Otto never had visitors. No friends or family seemed to be in the picture. There were no cards on his nightstand, no flowers on the nearby table. He didn't talk on the telephone. Didn't read books or listen the radio. He didn't even watch television. His one activity was pushing his IV pole down the long hall to the solarium, where he would smoke for hours on end.

He didn't have much to say to his caregivers either. Occasionally I'd try to engage him, ask him how he was feeling, invite him to open up. He would answer in monosyllables, if he responded at all.

The man was in agony. His anguish was palpable. His trips to the solarium exhausted him. He was prone to prolonged coughing spells and often lay in bed, gasping for air like a landed fish. His death was imminent and yet he did not acknowledge this in any way. Indeed, he never seemed to move through the famous five stages that Elisabeth Kübler-Ross identified as essential to the dying process. He did not get angry. He didn't bargain for a reprieve. And he showed no sign of having arrived at an acceptance of his fate.



Find *Finish Strong* at Amazon, Barnes & Noble and IndieBound, or visit:
CompassionAndChoices.org/finish-strong



Otto made no move to put his affairs in order. He refused to speak to a grief counselor or meet with the chaplain. Despite the severity of his symptoms, his debilitation and his shockingly impoverished life, he clung to his existence the way a cat clings to the trunk of a tree. He remained permanently mired in struggle. He struggled especially to breathe, sweating with the effort, until he exhausted himself, and then he died.

As a young nurse, I was baffled by Otto's attitude. I thought: What is the deal here? What kind of life is this, and why is it so hard for him to let go of it? I felt deeply saddened whenever I was around him. And I felt helpless as well. He was a patient whose sharpest suffering was not within our power to diminish.

Several years later, in a Seattle coronary care unit, I met another man whose death became iconic for me. His name was Nate. He was about 10 years older than Otto and yet somehow he looked younger. His straight silver hair swept back from his forehead and his warm dark eyes met mine easily. Before his illness, he'd been a history teacher at a local high school, where he'd remained a vital and popular presence long after most of his peers retired.

He was dying of heart disease, and his doctor had the grace to let him die without a lot of heroics or paraphernalia. At the time, heart transplants were not yet a viable option, and they still are not an option for people his age. Nate's physician — the Chief of Cardiology Service — was in his 70s himself, and he had a clear-eyed acceptance of the fact that his patient's death was inevitable and imminent.

Moreover, he was unafraid to let his own deep connection to human suffering inform his decisions and guide his practice. He needed

no persuasion to do the right thing. Although we had easy access to new state-of-the-art technology, he told us to just take Nate off all the machines and let his death come peacefully. So we did. We took out all the wires and tubes, bathed him and told his family, who was stationed outside his room, that it was time to come in and bid him farewell.

One by one, they came in and sat at his bedside and had a final, intimate conversation with him. They told him how much they loved him and how they would carry his memory with them the rest of their days. One of his daughters read him several letters from former students, testifying to how deeply he had influenced their lives. He received all these tributes and loving testimonials with closed eyes and a slight smile. What struck me most during these hours was the equanimity and grace emanating from him to the whole room.

His death, when it came, was just as gentle as a leaf falling from a tree.

Practicing as a clinician showed me time and again how life informs death and death informs life. It showed me the vital importance of being conscious of our mortality and the fragile transience of our precious lives. Approaching the end of life confident of having seized every opportunity for love and kindness seemed to be a primary requirement for a "good" death. Girded with the fullness of a life well-lived, people can die unafraid, as Nate did.

From Loss to Legacy

We reflect with gratitude on some of the champions for choice the movement lost in 2018.

Every day at Compassion & Choices, we benefit in countless ways from relationships with volunteers and supporters nationwide who help us advance end-of-life options. Their advocacy contributes greatly to our success. Their friendship and encouragement remind us exactly what we are working toward. The poignant moments we share often end up bittersweet. Due to the nature of our work, these relationships tend to end far too soon. This year we lost many dear supporters, storytellers and friends. Supporters shown on these pages do not represent a full list of advocates we have lost this year.

Each of these losses moves us to continue our work in a different way. We are driven to improve care, expand options and create a society where autonomy is respected and reflected in the care that we give, right up to the end of life. We can't extend life for our dear friends, so instead we try to offer them options for a compassionate death that mirror their own values, priorities and beliefs.

All of them invite us to recommit daily to the promises we made to advocates who were not fortunate enough to see the fruits of their efforts. Advocates are committed to helping those who will come after them, and they inspire each of us to examine the legacy that we hope to leave.

The storytellers and supporters listed here exemplify these themes of service, dedication and sacrifice. Let us all take their lessons to heart and never forget the promises we made to each of them. Our gratitude is immeasurable.



Heather Block
DELAWARE

Heather was a lifelong supporter of Compassion & Choices and a generous legacy gift donor. She used her courage and determination to advocate for passage of medical aid in dying in Delaware up until her final moments. She taught us the importance of standing up for your beliefs publicly and giving your community a voice.



Ron Silverio
DELAWARE

Ron shared his story widely despite knowing he would not have the opportunity to utilize medical aid in dying. His family continues to carry on his mission.



Mary Klein
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Mary fought not only to pass Washington, D.C.'s, Death with Dignity Act, but to protect it from multiple threats and make access to the law possible. Her courage continues to inspire our staff and supporters. And her legacy gift continues to fund our work.



Joan Nelson
CALIFORNIA

Joan intervened in the lawsuit to nullify California's law. She used her life's last chapter to ensure that no one in California needlessly has to suffer at the end.



Ted Pfeiff
IOWA

Ted supported our movement for over two decades. His longtime advocacy serves as a powerful motivator to continue our commitment to those who need expanded options.



Jaren Ducker
COLORADO

Jaren not only served on Compassion & Choices' board of directors, she also acted as petitioner of the ballot measure that authorized medical aid in dying in Colorado. Her quiet strength and compassion provided a bright example for all of us.

Please email Storyteller Program Manager Erika Bieranowski at ebieranowski@CompassionAndChoices.org if you would like to share your story, too.



Christine Whaley
CALIFORNIA

Christine spent her final months working to increase access to end-of-life options in her California community. A fierce advocate, she brought joy and lightness to each interaction, leaving a lasting impression on those she met.



Civil Rights Icon Makes Push For End-of-Life Options

“Si Se Puede” Champion Dolores Huerta Urges Hispanics to Support Medical Aid in Dying Across the Nation



Civil rights icon Dolores Huerta has joined Compassion & Choices for a multi-state bilingual education campaign featuring online videos promoting the advancement of expanding end-of-life care options in Nevada, New Mexico, New Jersey and New York on Facebook and Twitter.

The ‘End-of-Life Options for ALL’ campaign features Dolores Huerta in videos and photos urging fellow Hispanics to join her to support bills that would allow terminally ill individuals to have the option of medical aid in dying, so they can live their last days in peace without unnecessary suffering. The campaign was launched in Nevada, New Mexico, New Jersey and New York as lawmakers in those states considered medical aid-in-dying bills and state legislatures throughout the country honored her 89th birthday with ‘Dolores Huerta Day’ celebrations.

Dolores is a labor and civil rights leader who founded the Dolores Huerta Foundation. She is known for her famous line “Si Se Puede” or “Yes We Can.” In 2012, she was honored with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian honor.

As part of the campaign, Compassion & Choices recreated the classic photo, known as “Huelga” shot in September 1965. The image, once exhibited at the Smithsonian, shows a young Dolores holding a sign with the word “Huelga” or “Strike” during the grape strike and boycott, which led to the field workers’ first contract with California table grape growers.

Compassion & Choices is grateful for the dedication of Dolores and other supporters who work to expand options for everyone.



top: Civil rights activist Dolores Huerta, a native of New Mexico and champion for end-of-life options, in Feb. 2019. right: Huerta with “Huelga” sign in Sept. 1965.

Empowering Floridians to Chart Their Own Journey

Compassion & Choices Launches Florida Truth in Treatment® Program

Compassion & Choices is proud to announce the launch of our Florida Truth in Treatment Program, a groundbreaking initiative to help educate and empower all Floridians to get end-of-life care that is consistent with their values and priorities.

In February, Compassion & Choices CEO Kim Callinan met with stakeholders across the state including health systems, healthcare providers, faith leaders, supporters and volunteers during a multi-city Florida tour. Special thanks to the Florida Action Teams for their assistance, both initiating and facilitating events throughout the tour. Hundreds of supporters showed up to learn more about challenges within our end-of-life system, legally available options, and forthcoming plans by Compassion & Choices to ensure that the medical system will fully embrace the patient's voice and choice in their end-of-life care.

At a lively event co-sponsored with the Sarasota Memorial Health Care system, over 250 interested Floridians were in attendance. Kim Callinan provided a co-keynote speech with the hospital's director of palliative care, Dr. Joelle Vlahakis. In Naples, Kim was invited by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greater Naples to deliver a keynote speech on end-of-life choice as a part of their progressive voices series, delivering remarks to an engaged room with over 60 people including local media. Other stops on the tour included an Ocala adult learning center, the Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater and the Moorings Park Clubhouse in Naples.

To continue the momentum, in March, President Barbara Coombs Lee toured several Florida cities carrying forward the theme of Truth in Treatment



Kim Callinan during her Florida tour addressed an audience at Sarasota Memorial Hospital about end-of-life options.

with a robust discussion of her new book, *Finish Strong: Putting Your Priorities First at Life's End*. This included presentations at an event at Ballen Isles Country Club and the Palm Beach Planned Giving Council Breakfast.

Our new Florida Program Manager, Michael Farmer, will continue public education and outreach efforts to build on this momentum.

If you are interested in getting involved or have ideas, please email mfarmer@CompassionandChoices.org.

Defending As We Grow

Compassion & Choices is working to expand access to medical aid in dying while opponents seek to prohibit the practice in authorized states.

CALIFORNIA

In November, we won a major victory when the state's Fourth District Court of Appeal ruled that our opponents did not have legal standing to file their lawsuit, *Ahn v. Hestrin*, opposing medical aid in dying. The California Supreme Court refused to overrule the lower court so now our opponents will return to the trial court to reassert their claims after addressing the deficiencies the Court of Appeal identified. Compassion & Choices will continue to defend the law for however long it takes to protect the legal right to medical aid in dying in California.

CONNECTICUT

Rep. Jonathan Steinberg introduced HB 5898: An Act Concerning Medical Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients on January 25, 2019. On March 18, the Joint Public Health Committee heard HB 5898. Over 140 Connecticut supporters submitted written testimony using Compassion & Choices' website urging the committee to hear and vote for the bill. We also had a major presence in Hartford for the hearing. Testimonies from CEO Kim Callinan, actor and Fairfield County resident James Naughton, and Sharon Hines, a terminally ill Middletown resident living with stage IV lung cancer, were extremely well received by the committee.

DELAWARE

Compassion & Choices and Delaware Rep. Paul Baumbach are working with legislators and volunteers from across the First State to strengthen support for the Ron Silverio/Heather Block Delaware End of Life Options Act. The legislation was renamed to honor the memories of two Delaware-based advocates who spent their final months campaigning for expanded end-of-life options before their deaths last year.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

In March, the Trump Administration released its Fiscal Year 2020 budget (Oct. 1, 2019–Sept. 30, 2020), including a provision that is an opening salvo to repeal medical aid-in-dying laws nationwide. This budget provision would prohibit the use of local funds to carry out D.C.'s Death with Dignity Act — depriving terminally ill D.C. residents from using their legal right to medical aid in dying — and embolden opponents to seek a nationwide ban on the practice. Compassion & Choices continues to monitor and protect the law in Washington, D.C.

ILLINOIS

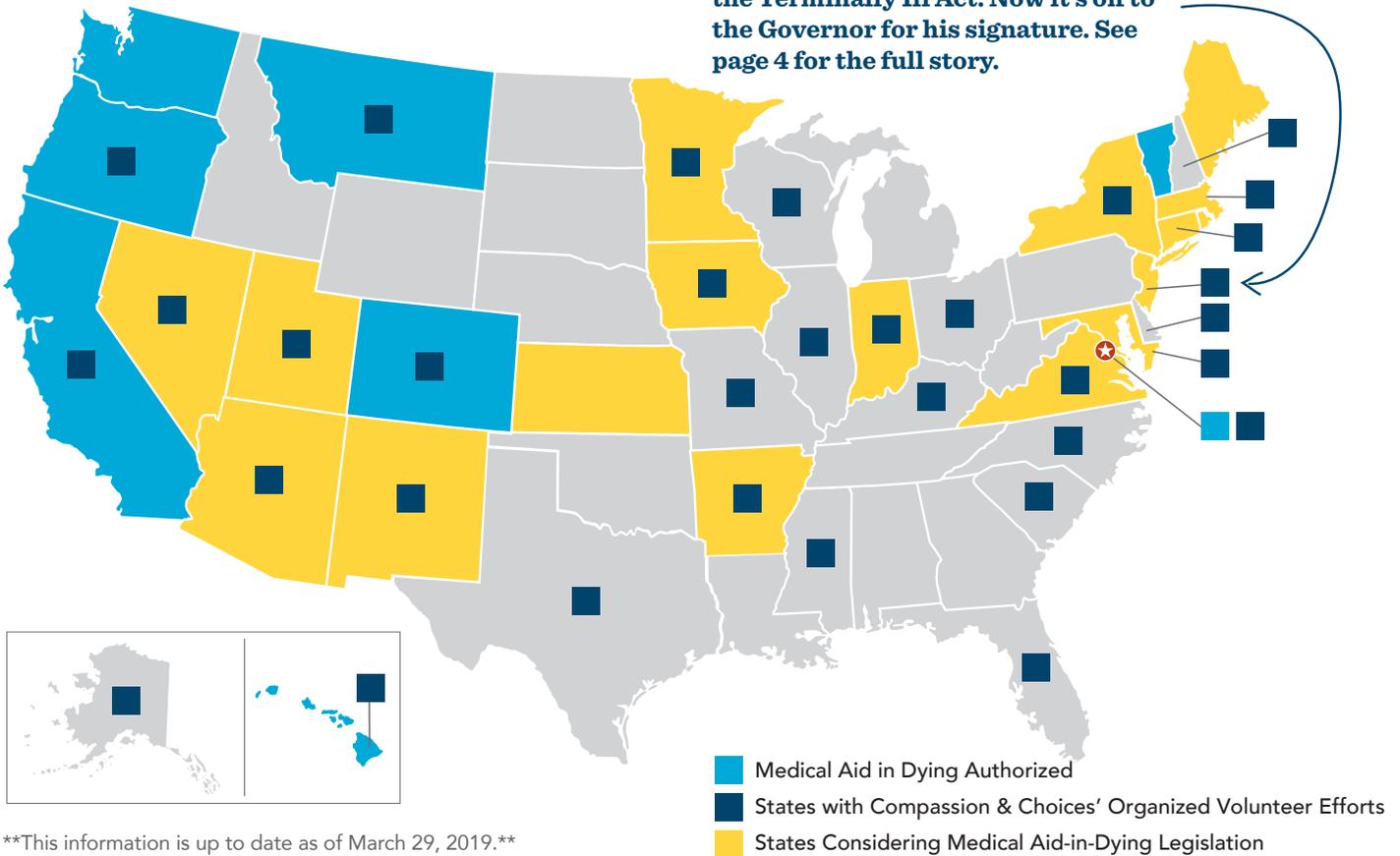
With the election of new governor J.B. Pritzker, who is supportive of medical aid in dying — and the strong partnership with the ACLU of Illinois and Final Options Illinois — Compassion & Choices is expanding our footprint in Illinois. With organizational partners, we are creating a campaign plan to realize medical aid in dying in the great state of Illinois, while simultaneously building our grassroots presence and educating lawmakers about this much-needed option. Our newest action team addition in the state is in Chicago!

MARYLAND

In January, Compassion & Choices hosted over 30 legislators and 150 volunteers at the launch of the 2019 campaign to pass the Maryland End-of-Life Option Act (also known as the Richard E. Israel and Roger "Pip" Moyer Act). The legislation was introduced with 69 co-sponsors, more than ever before in Maryland or any other medical aid-in-dying bill nationwide. On March 7, the House of Delegates passed the bill by a vote (74-66). The Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee voted to approve the bill in a bipartisan vote of 8-3. Unfortunately, the committee

FANTASTIC NEWS!

On 3/25, the New Jersey Legislature passed the Medical Aid in Dying for the Terminally Ill Act. Now it's off to the Governor for his signature. See page 4 for the full story.



This information is up to date as of March 29, 2019.

added 26 amendments to the bill that would make the law, if passed with these amendments, nearly impossible to access for terminally ill people. On March 27, the Senate narrowly failed to pass the bill in a 23-23 tie vote. We are grateful to staff on the ground, supporters and sponsors of the bill — Del. Shane Pendergrass, our legislative champion, and Sen. Will Smith, our senate sponsor.

MASSACHUSETTS

In January, medical aid-in-dying legislation was reintroduced in the Massachusetts Legislature by Rep. Louis L. Kafka and Sen. William N. Brownsberger with a combined 63 co-sponsors. Compassion & Choices participated in community discussions about the importance of passing this legislation without delay, most recently in Bellingham, Falmouth, Woods Hole and Brewster. We are pushing for an early hearing in the Joint Public Health Committee.



Actor and Connecticut resident James Naughton testified in Hartford, CT, in front of the Joint Public Health Committee in support of An Act Concerning Medical Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients.

advocacy in action

MONTANA

A bill that would ban medical aid in dying — HB 284 — was passed by the Montana House of Representatives on February 15, 2019. On March 29, the Senate Judiciary Committee voted 6-4 to send the bill to the full Senate for a vote. This proposed “Physician Imprisonment Act” would criminalize physicians who honor their patients’ end-of-life wishes. They could be charged with murder for treating terminally ill individuals, which carries penalties of no less than 10 years in prison and a maximum of the death penalty. Compassion & Choices helped establish Montana as the only state to authorize medical aid in dying through a court challenge in 2009. We are working with lawmakers on the ground to protect Montanans from this Draconian threat while tracking potential additional challenges.

NEW MEXICO

Compassion & Choices along with the New Mexico End of Life Options Coalition advanced the Elizabeth Whitefield End of Life Options Act this legislative session, supported by bill sponsors Rep. Debbie Armstrong and Sen. Liz Stefanics. The bill’s title honors the legacy of the late Judge Elizabeth Whitefield, who continued to advocate for medical aid in dying as she faced terminal cancer. Helped by advocates and supporters across the state, the bill successfully passed through three committees. Unfortunately, the bill was tabled in the House of Representatives during the last week of session. Our work this year laid the groundwork for the eventual and inevitable authorization of medical aid in dying in New Mexico. Compassion & Choices remains committed and will continue advocacy and education to advance end-of-life options in New Mexico.

NEVADA

Nevada Senate Bill 165 — which would authorize medical aid in dying — was approved by the Senate Health & Human Services Committee on March 20 with a 3-2 vote. Compassion & Choices has partnered with Death with Dignity National Center to form The Nevada Coalition for Death with Dignity.

NEW YORK

Compassion & Choices kicked off the 2019 campaign with a January press conference we hosted along with the American Academy of Family Physicians, which demonstrated widespread support for medical aid in dying among doctors. A Medscape survey of New York state physicians showed that 56 percent of them support medical aid in dying. Support jumped to 67 percent once surveyed physicians learned the details and provisions of the proposed legislation. This survey confirms the growing trend of support for medical aid in dying among healthcare professionals.



Compassion & Choices launched the 2019 campaign to pass New York’s Medical Aid in Dying Act. speaking in front: Corinne Carey, C&C NY Campaign Director. second row, from left: NYS Assemblywoman and bill sponsor Amy Paulin (D-88), NYS Assembly Health Committee chair and bill sponsor Richard N. Gottfried (D-75), Dr. Jay Federman (High Peaks Hospice), Dr. Timothy E. Quill, C&C NY Campaign Manager Amanda Cavanaugh, Dr. Rob Morrow (NYS Academy of Family Physicians).

Hawaii's Law Goes Live

Implementation of the Our Care, Our Choice Act continues to go smoothly.

Hawaii's new medical aid-in-dying law went into effect on January 1, 2019. Compassion & Choices held a press conference on January 2 celebrating the law, as well as our years of advocacy and hard work dedicated to achieving this accomplishment.

For years, terminal cancer patient and Compassion & Choices' medical aid-in-dying advocate John Radcliffe, put enormous effort into getting the law passed and was Hawaii's first individual to request a prescription for aid-in-dying medication under the new law.

Many legislators worked tirelessly to pass the Our Care, Our Choice Act, including Sen. Baker, Sen. Inouye, Rep. Bellati, Rep. Nishimoto, and Rep. Mizuno, as well as Gov. Ige. We thank them for their thoughtful and intentional approach to making all end-of-life options a reality for Hawai'i residents.

In Hawai'i, as in other states, implementing medical aid-in-dying laws can be even more difficult than getting them passed. The shortage of doctors in Hawai'i, as well as the separation of the islands, creates an even bigger challenge. We also face a sophisticated, well-funded opposition determined to block access to the law. Former Compassion & Choices National Director of Policy & Programs Kat West and State Director Samantha Trad have worked diligently with the Hawai'i Department of Health to educate and help prepare the medical community and general public.

Mahalo to Sen. Inouye who helped organize a series of public and medical outreach presentations given



left: Sen. Inouye (left) with Samantha Trad, Compassion & Choices state director for California and Hawai'i, in her office after a meeting discussing implementation efforts on the Island of Hawai'i. right: John Radcliffe, terminally ill Hawai'i resident, and first resident to request medication from his doctor, at the bill signing.

by Samantha Trad across the Big Island in October, before the law took effect. Sen. Inouye served her constituents by laying the groundwork needed for successful implementation, so patients on this neighboring island can receive the care they want. One of the biggest hurdles has been pushback from hospices across the state who will not allow their physicians to prescribe medical aid in dying to qualified patients. Thankfully, a growing number of healthcare systems, including Kaiser Permanente, have patient-centered policies in place for physicians who want to provide eligible patients with all end-of-life options, including medical aid in dying. Compassion & Choices is working hard to encourage more systems to adopt similar policies.

Engaging Communities, Lifting Voices

Compassion & Choices continues building meaningful partnerships and working within diverse communities to empower, educate and advocate for end-of-life options.

Compassion & Choices proudly partners with communities across the nation to help bring end-of-life options to everyone. We sit down with doctors, faith leaders and community visionaries to change the way people approach the end of life. Every step brings us closer to our goal of empowering all Americans to understand and take charge of their healthcare options at life's end.

The American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) represents 130,000 family doctors and stands as the largest single-specialty medical association in the United States. Representatives from New York, Washington, California and New Mexico successfully led the charge to change the AAFP's position on medical aid in dying to one of engaged neutrality, a historic break for the component society from the American Medical Association (AMA). Engaged neutrality means the organization pledged to support and protect both members who choose to practice medical aid in dying as well as those who don't. They also rejected the harmful and inaccurate term "assisted suicide." At the state level, the New Mexico Medical Society also dropped its opposition to medical aid in dying and adopted a position of engaged neutrality.

... empowering all Americans to understand and take charge of their healthcare options at life's end.



Compassion & Choices' board member Rev. Madison Shockley speaks at the National Newspaper Publishing Association conference.

The creation of Compassion & Choices' African American and Latino Leadership Councils, comprised of leading executives, physicians and community leaders, has paved the way for unprecedented progress in securing end-of-life options for all Americans.

Council members have engaged in outreach with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, National Urban League, National Newspaper Publishers Association and National Black Nurses Association. Members also secured endorsements for medical aid in dying from the National Hispanic Council on Aging (NHCOA), Latino Commission on AIDS, Hispanic Health Network, *Nuestra Salud*, Dolores Huerta Foundation and Latinos for Healthcare Equity. We also partnered with organizations like the National Hispanic Medical Association, NHCOA and the National Council on Black Aging to plan webinars and speaking engagements about end-of-life planning.



African American Leadership Council member Rev. Charles McNeill, National Director of Constituency Brandi Alexander and Constituency & Campaign Coordinator Wendy Minor attend a National Urban League event.

Compassion & Choices staff attended various events, including those held by NHCOA, the National Hispanic Health Foundation and National Black Caucus of State Legislators. Council members met with lawmakers in states like New York, Delaware and Maryland in support of medical aid-in-dying legislation. These opportunities strengthen the voice of Compassion & Choices as well as expose us to new ideas and strategies.

Compassion & Choices also sponsored and attended dozens of events across the country geared toward the faith community. “From Texas to New York, our team heard from thousands of Americans eager to educate themselves about end-of-life options,” said National Director of Constituency Brandi Alexander. “People are determined to learn about the care they want, and Compassion & Choices is proud to assist them in that effort.”

End-of-Life Resources for Everyone

We remain dedicated to growing an inclusive movement where all people receive end-of-life care that is consistent with their values and priorities. Our community outreach activities bring us closer to realizing that vision.

At Compassion & Choices, we believe that people — not a healthcare system — should be in charge of their own end-of-life decisions. But how can you best navigate such a journey? Our organized efforts to improve care and expand options include a host of valuable resources designed to support individuals and their families, friends and loved ones in honoring everyone’s values and priorities.

» Truth in Treatment® Tools

Access these tools to communicate with your doctors in making real-time treatment decisions, even when you are at your most vulnerable.

CompassionAndChoices.org/ttx

» Finish Strong: Putting Your Priorities First at Life’s End

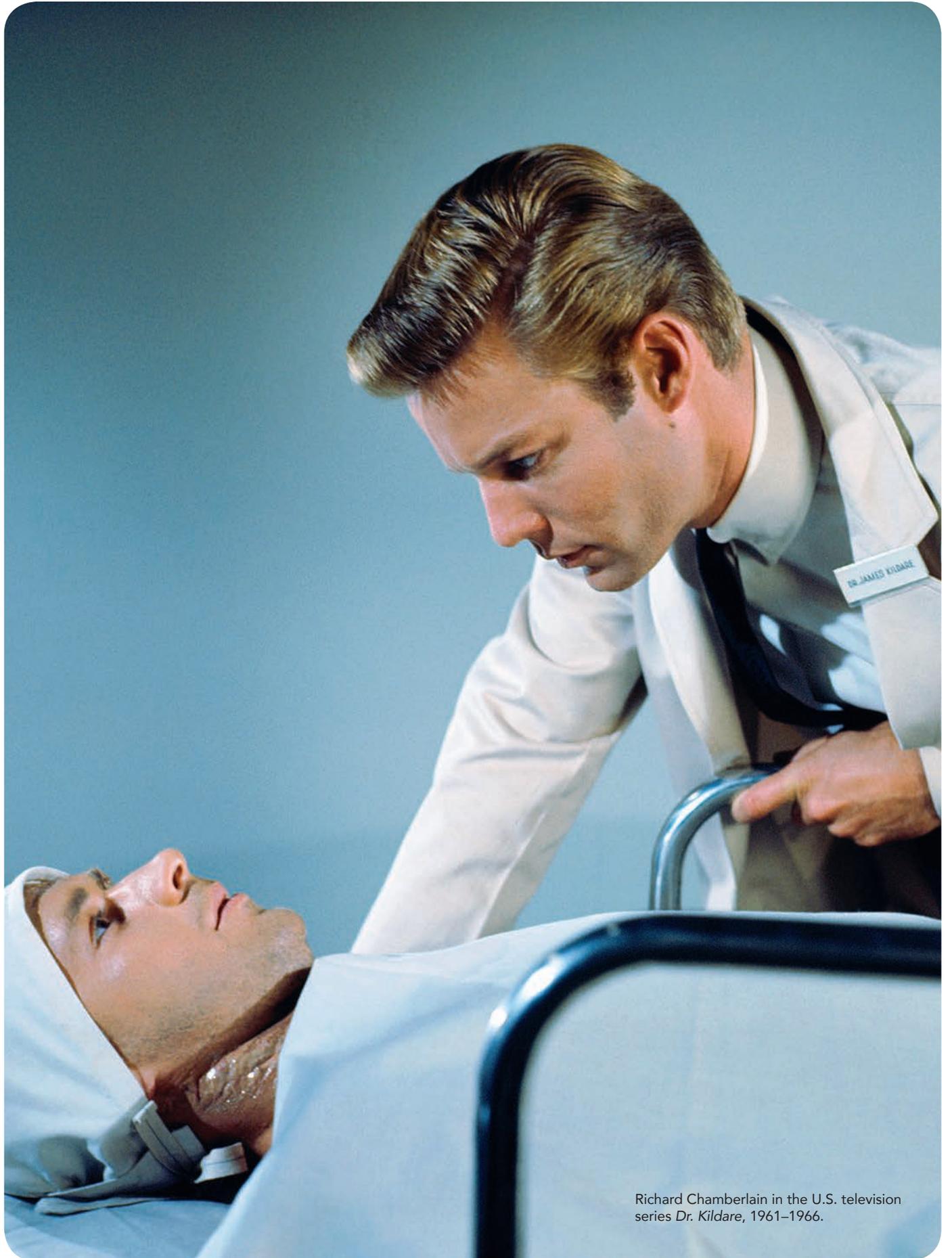
Pick up a copy of Compassion & Choices’ President Barbara Coombs Lee’s powerful new book, in which she writes honestly and candidly about empowering everyone to chart a course for themselves and their loved ones. Her writing focuses on reducing suffering and creating a life that reflects one’s personal values and beliefs, right up to the end.

CompassionAndChoices.org/finish-strong

» Plan Your Care Resource Center

Take advantage of more than two dozen helpful resources, including a comprehensive toolkit, advance directives and worksheets to help plan your end-of-life decisions.

CompassionAndChoices.org/planning



Richard Chamberlain in the U.S. television series *Dr. Kildare*, 1961–1966.

Five Questions for Richard Chamberlain

Award-winning actor and passionate supporter of end-of-life options, Richard Chamberlain stepped up to help us pass Hawaii's Our Care, Our Choice Act — and increase access to the law in the state he now calls home.

Q: You've enjoyed a remarkably long acting career, starting in college and still going strong. Was there ever another profession you considered?

A: No. As a little kid I was not happy with real life for various reasons. And I hated school. What I loved most was going to the movies. I loved what was happening up there on the screen, and I thought to myself, "That's where I want to be!" I wanted to be an actor from the very early days, and it has absolutely been all my dreams come true. It's hard work, but it's what I always wanted. I feel so fortunate.

Q: Your resume is quite varied as well — from theater to television to film, from Katharine Hepburn to David Lynch. What do you consider a professional highlight?

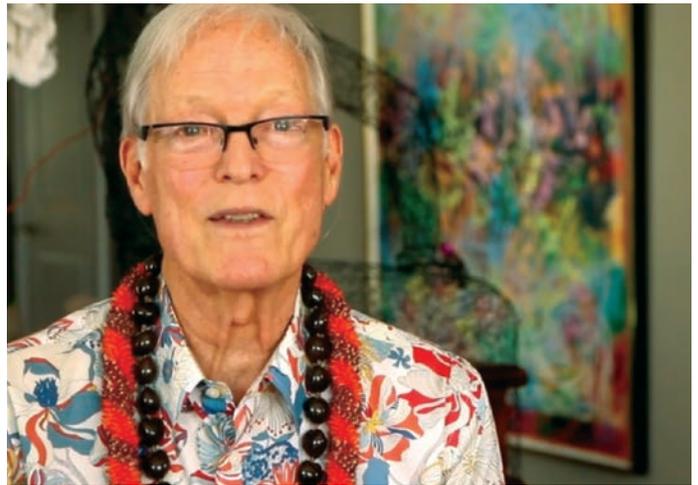
A: One of my favorite plays is *The Lady's Not for Burning* by Christopher Fry. John Gielgud and Pamela Brown did it on tour in the '50s, and it was a very big deal. I fell in love with it when I was in college. I was finally able to play Thomas Mendip in that play in England. Then we did a production of it for PBS, and it was just one of the great experiences of my life. I love that play so much.

Q: An early, memorable role of yours was playing the title character, James Kildare, in *Dr. Kildare*. In the first episode, your superior advises, “Our job is to keep people alive,” still a common attitude in healthcare. Do you see the entertainment industry more as a mirror of societal norms or a shaper of beliefs?

A: Probably both. I think very inventive directors and writers can make movies that are extremely important in the information they give to the public. In terms of *Dr. Kildare*, we were pretty mainstream. It was wonderfully produced, and we had good writers and so many fabulous guest stars and guest directors, so we lucked out in that way. But even though it ran in the '60s, the show was pretty on-the-nose '50s American.

Q: What compelled you to become involved with Compassion & Choices and the end-of-life choice movement?

A: I met some wonderful people in the organization a couple of years ago in Hawai'i, and I had of course given it some thought because I am now 84. As you know, none of us lasts forever. I've also had a couple of close friends who suffered miserably at the end of their lives. A compassionate death was not in the cards for them, and I thought it should have been. Certainly for myself if I were, God forbid, suffering something awful, I would welcome an early exit if there were no cure. And I would like to see other people have the freedom of that option. It's an enormous choice, of course. But I think people who are suffering at the end of their lives should have that choice and not be forced to go through months and months and months of agony.



Chamberlain appeared in a Compassion & Choices' public service ad to help educate Hawai'i residents and doctors about the state's new medical aid-in-dying law, the Our Care, Our Choice Act.

Q: Having been active in the successful campaign to pass medical aid-in-dying legislation in Hawai'i last year, do you have any words of wisdom or encouragement for people still working to secure that option in their state?

A: It's a very complicated matter in terms of people's religious ideas and our general fear of death. To tell the truth, I've always been kind of fascinated by the idea of death: What is it about? Where do you go? Does anything happen beyond? And its inevitability is interesting. I think perhaps people are more frightened than they need to be of the actual fact of death. But it is extremely complex, so I don't really have any words of wisdom beyond searching your own soul and giving real, intelligent, compassionate thought to the subject.

Overall, I haven't been politically or culturally very active through my career, unfortunately. But having some tiny contribution to make toward something as important as this has felt very good.

Leaving a Lasting Legacy

Compassion & Choices is fortunate to have generous supporters who not only contribute to us during their lifetime, but who honor us at their death by making a legacy gift.

“Time and time again, I open up my daily contribution report and find a generous legacy gift just when we need it most,” said Kim Callinan, CEO.

To recognize our storytellers, volunteers, donors and legacy gift members, Kim has created a wall of heroes in her office. “These photos serve as a constant reminder of why our work is so important,” says Kim. “If we are in your legacy plans, please let us know so that we can thank you now and properly honor you later.”

“Time and time again, I open up my daily contribution report and find a generous legacy gift just when we need it most.”

This year, we were fortunate to receive several sizable legacy gifts that allowed us to make critical investments in programs and states. Every legacy gift is meaningful and recognized in our annual report. Please join us in thanking Heather Block (see page 8) and some of our other hero legacy donors from 2018, noted as follows:



CAROLE BRADFELD

Carole spent 20 years of her retirement volunteering at a hospice. She came to this movement through her husband Jim, a Compassion & Choices' client who used

medical aid in dying to end his struggle with Parkinson's disease in Bend, Oregon.



MONIQUE BONDEAUX

Born in Paris, Monique moved to the United States at age 21 and became an active supporter of Compassion & Choices through a passionate belief that

people should be able to control vital aspects of their personal lives. She helped found the Utah Compassion & Choices chapter and continued her advocacy after moving to Florida, giving presentations and hosting a fundraiser for Compassion & Choices in her own home.

ELIZABETH “LIBBY” KIRKPATRICK

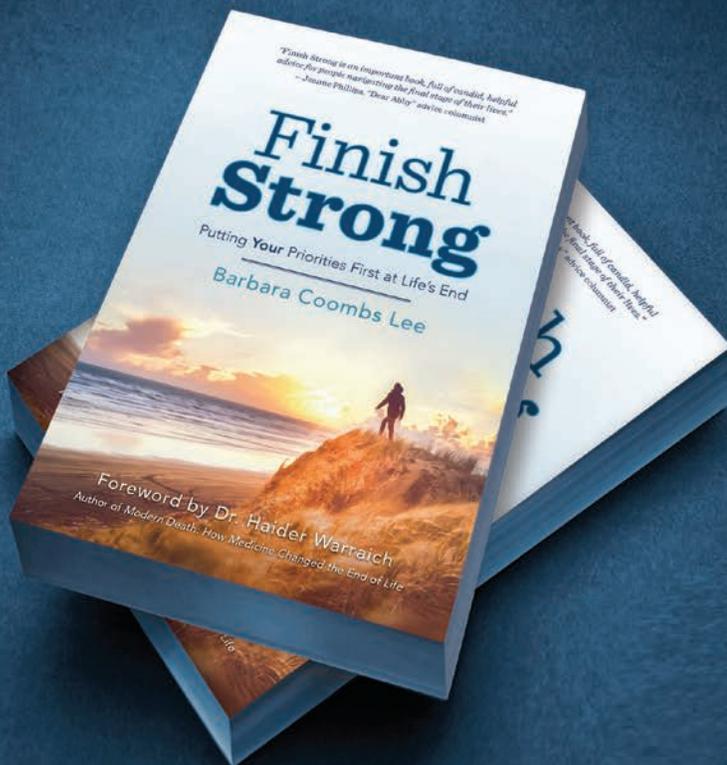
Whether volunteering for and giving generously to not only Compassion & Choices but Habitat for Humanity, Greenhouse Scholars and dozens of other organizations, Libby leaves an indelible mark on her city of Denver and the end-of-life choice movement overall.

*To learn how you can leave your own legacy or to notify Compassion & Choices that you have already arranged a planned gift, contact Planned Giving Advisor Kimberley Pittman-Schulz at **800.247.7421 x2152** or plannedgiving@CompassionAndChoices.org.*



Care and Choice at the End of Life

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Host a Finish Strong Book Club!

Bring together your friends, family, neighbors and colleagues to discuss Compassion & Choices President Barbara Coombs Lee's book *Finish Strong: Putting Your Priorities First at Life's End*.

Compassion & Choices has tools to help you host a robust and interesting discussion.

Sign up to receive more information about being a *Finish Strong* book club host:

CompassionAndChoices.org/book-club