

ABOUT COMPASSION & CHOICES

Compassion & Choices is the nation's oldest, largest and most active nonprofit working to improve care and expand options for the end of life.

We focus our efforts in state legislatures, Congress, courts, medical settings and communities to:

- » empower people with information and tools, including our free consultation program, to receive healthcare that is consistent with their values and priorities as they approach the end of life.

- » advance policies that let people make fully informed decisions about their healthcare, such as improving hospice and palliative care and ending unwanted medical treatment.
- » pass and implement medical aid-in-dying laws to allow mentally capable adults in their final weeks or months of a terminal disease to die more peacefully.

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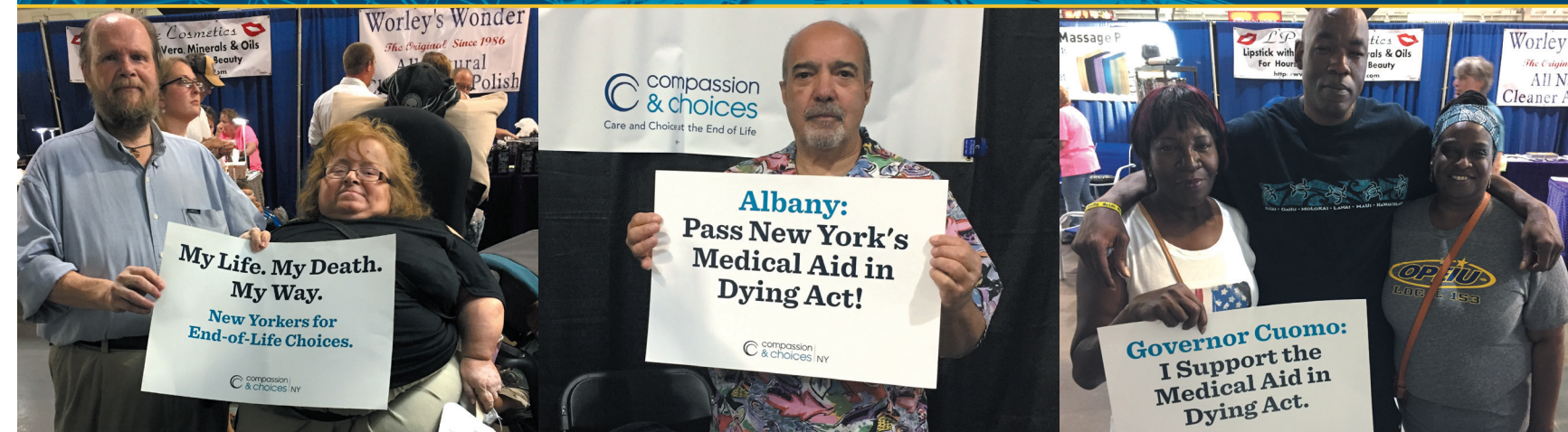
 [CompassionAndChoicesNewYork](https://www.facebook.com/CompassionAndChoicesNewYork)

 Compassion & Choices New York
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Thousands of New Yorkers Voice Their Support for Medical Aid in Dying at the Great New York State Fair



 **compassion
& choices** | NY



COMPASSION & CHOICES VOLUNTEERS TALK ABOUT END-OF-LIFE OPTIONS

Compassion & Choices joined over a million people at the 2017 Great New York State Fair in Syracuse between August 23 and September 4. We spoke to thousands of New Yorkers, sharing materials about end-of-life planning and information about the pending aid-in-dying legislation. Many fairgoers took time during an otherwise light hearted day to remember and share the stories of loved ones who died in unnecessary pain without this peaceful option.

The Medical Aid in Dying Act (S.3151/A.2383), sponsored by Senator Diane Savino and Assemblymember Amy Paulin, would authorize mentally capable, terminally ill adults with six months or less to live to request a prescription they could decide to take if their suffering becomes unbearable.


The New York Medical Aid in Dying Act is modeled on similar laws across the country, where a combined four decades of experience show that aid in dying is a safe and trusted practice. Oregon, Washington, Vermont, California and Colorado aid-in-dying laws are working as intended, and there has not been a single incidence of abuse or coercion.

Three out of four New York voters (77%) agree that “when a mentally competent adult is dying from a terminal illness that cannot be cured, the adult should be allowed the option to request a prescription for life ending medication from their doctor, and decide whether and when to use that medication to end their suffering in their final stages of dying.”*

GENERATING A GROUNDSWELL OF SUPPORT

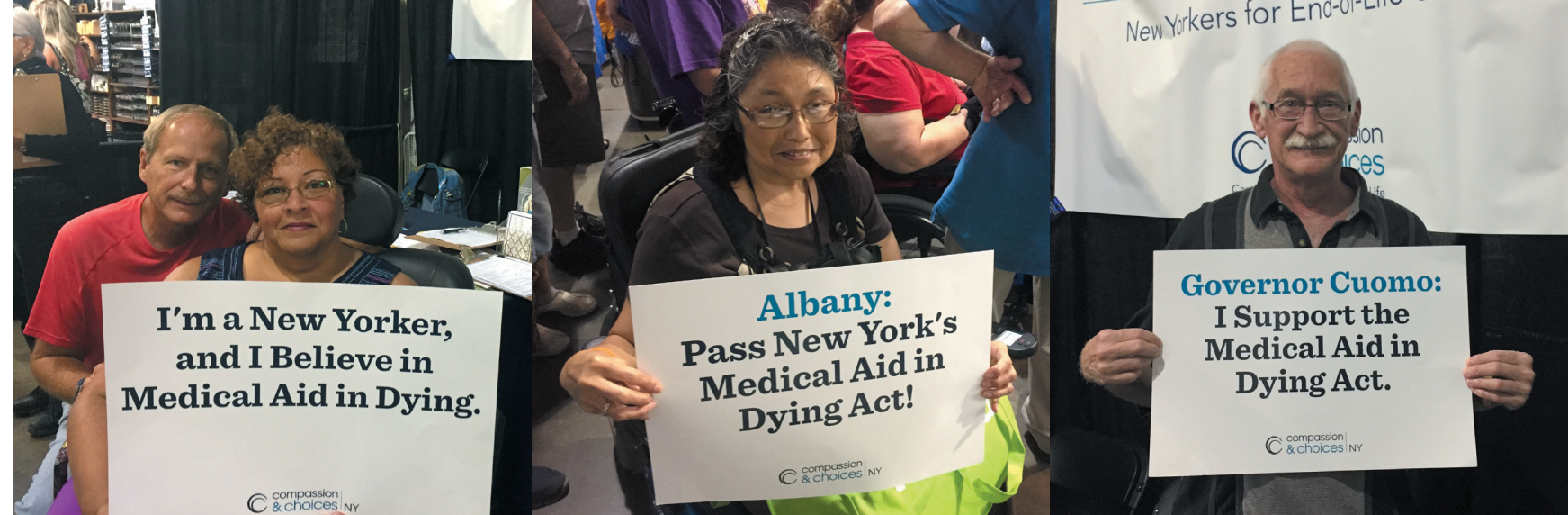
Scores of volunteers from the Adirondacks to Long Island staffed the Compassion & Choices New York table for two weeks.

Supporters from all walks of life, including medical professionals, people living with disabilities and advocates living with terminal illness, came together to ask their fellow New Yorkers to champion better end-of-life care for all, including the option of medical aid in dying.

 **NEARLY 8,000 NEW YORKERS SIGNED OUR PETITION:**

“I am a New Yorker who attended the Great New York State Fair, and I believe that terminally ill, mentally capable adults should have the right to request and receive medication that they can take to achieve a peaceful death.”

* Eagle Point Strategies Survey, October 2015



13 days | **48 volunteers**

7,750 petition signatures

5,000 end-of-life planning documents handed out

20,000 visitors to Compassion & Choices NY booth

