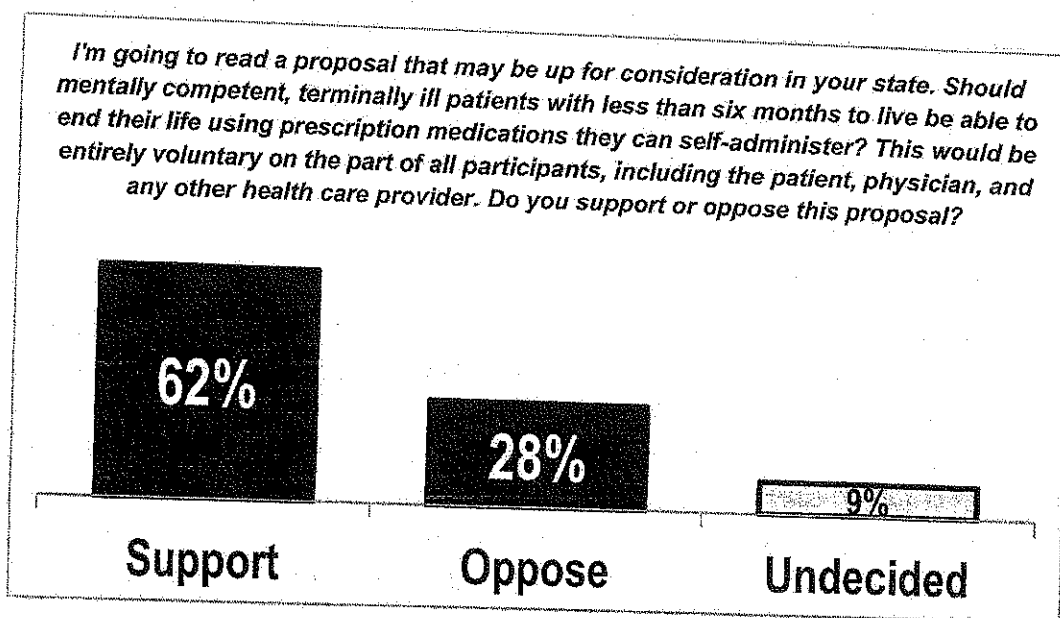


TO: Interested Parties
 FR: Strategies 360
 RE: Public Attitudes regarding Dying with Dignity (DWD)



KEY FINDINGS

- Colorado voters express strong support for the Dying with Dignity (DWD) proposal with 62% supporting and just 28% opposing. Voters also expressed a great deal of intensity in their opinions. Four in ten voters say they "strongly support."



- Support for DWD cuts across demographics, religions and ideology, including:
 - 76% of Democrats, 68% of Unaffiliateds and 47% of Republicans
 - 68% of millennial voters (18-34) and 56% of seniors (65+)
 - 55% of Christians and 52% of Catholics
 - 50% of voters who vote in Republican primaries
- Additionally, a majority say a legislator voting for DWD would either positively impact their likelihood of voting for that legislator or would not impact their vote either way. Just 21% say they would be less likely to vote for a legislator who supported DWD.

Methodology: This memo presents findings from a telephone survey of 602 likely 2014 voters in Colorado. The survey was conducted May 7 - 10, 2014 and has a margin of error of +/-4.0%. A combination of landlines and cell phones were called to ensure greater coverage of the electorate. This survey was commissioned by Compassion and Choices and conducted by Strategies 360.

Please Support HB 1135
A Bill For An Act Concerning A Terminally Ill Individual's Freedom To
Make End-Of-Life Decisions

Fact Sheet

What is the Colorado Death with Dignity Act?

The proposed bill: *A Terminally Ill Individual's Freedom To Make End-Of-Life Decisions*, would affirm the right of a qualified, terminally ill adult to obtain a prescription from their physician for medication that they may choose to self-administer for a humane and dignified death. This medical practice, called aid in dying, is currently authorized in five states: Oregon, Washington, Vermont, Montana and New Mexico. Similar legislation is moving quickly through New Jersey's legislature and is being considered in several other states in 2015.

The proposed Colorado contains the same provisions that have worked successfully in Oregon for over seventeen years. Key provisions are as follows:

- The patient must be a mentally competent adult who is a legal resident of Colorado and is diagnosed with an irreversible and incurable illness that, in a doctor's best medical judgment, will result in the patient's death in six months or less.
- The patient must make two separate requests for the medication separated by a minimum waiting period of fifteen days.
- A second physician must confirm that the patient will likely die in six months or less.
- If either physician suspects the patient may be acting out of duress, is under coercion, may be suffering from depression, or may lack the ability to fully appreciate the nature of the request, then the patient must be referred for a psychological evaluation.
- The patient must be counseled on all feasible alternative treatment options, including hospice, pain management and palliative care.
- The patient must complete a written request for the medication signed by two witnesses who testify that in their best judgment the patient is not being coerced or acting under duress and that the patient appears to be making a fully informed decision.
- At least one witness cannot be related by blood, marriage, adoption or civil union, nor be named as a beneficiary of the patient's will or estate.
- The patient may rescind his or her request at any time.
- The patient must be able to self-administer the medication; no one else can assist.
- The proposed law does not permit euthanasia, mercy killing or assisting a suicide, all of which remain felonies under Colorado law.
- A death under the law will not invalidate a life insurance policy or annuity.
- Provided all of the procedures have been followed and documented, no doctor, pharmacist or healthcare provider can be held civilly or criminally liable.
- Health care providers opposed to death with dignity are not required to participate.