# Writing to Elected Officials

Writing letters to your elected representatives is another important way to help Compassion & Choices advance the end-of-life choice movement. Letters should stress the importance of access to the full range of options and show lawmakers that their constituents support end-of-life autonomy. Legislative staff keep tallies on how many letters arrive on various issues and what positions they express. Over time, the volume of letters on an issue has a tremendous influence.

*Follow these tips so that the letters you send have the greatest impact.*

1. Find contact information. Use this link to find your elected officials:

[**http://iga.in.gov/legislative/find-legislators/**](http://iga.in.gov/legislative/find-legislators/)

1. Keep your letter concise. Choose one to three points to make in 200 to 300 words.
2. Make it personal. Write from your heart and include your reason(s) for supporting medical aid in dying for the terminally ill.
3. Always be courteous and respectful. The tone in letters to lawmakers should be as carefully considered as words used at in-person meetings. Thank them for their service at the beginning or the end of your letter.
4. Mention Compassion & Choices. Send the reader to CompassionAndChoices.org and/or enclose a fact sheet relevant to the issues addressed in your letter.

A sample letter follows below.

# Sample Letter to a Legislator

## Date

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Your Street Address |  |
| Your City, State Zip Code | |

## Dear Your Lawmaker,

As a constituent of yours, I wish to thank you for your service. I am writing to you on an issue that is of great importance to me. I believe citizens of Indiana should be free to choose how they live – and when the time comes, how they die. This private, personal decision should belong to all of us, free from government interference. This legislation, HR1011 in the 2023 legislative session, would allow a terminally ill, mentally capable adult to request medication from a doctor that the person may self-administer at a time of his or her choosing, should suffering become unbearable.

Insert personal story of why this matters to you here or delete this sentence.

Ten other states and Washington, D.C., have authorized medical aid in dying, and the time is now for Indiana to provide this option for the terminally ill. Too many suffer needlessly, endure unrelenting pain, or resort to violent means at the end of life, when medical aid could help them die peacefully.

I would like to talk with you to provide more information on the legislation and to hear your position on this issue. I feel it is important that we allow people who are terminally ill and of sound mind, to consider this end-of-life option. Our laws need to evolve so that we protect the decisions and freedoms of patients and citizens at the end of their lives. The time has come for the citizens of Indiana to have access to this compassionate option. I urge you to support this issue. Please contact me at (phone number and email address).

Thank you for your service to our state, Your Lawmaker’s name.

Sincerely,

Your Name