

From: janice weingrod janiceweingrod@gmail.com
Subject: Expand End of Life Choices in CA: Please Join Me!
Date: August 15, 2022 at 10:38
To: Janice Weingrod janiceweingrod@gmail.com

JW



Hello, This is an issue I believe deeply in and want to share with you all.

I am forwarding you our friend's story of her family's search to allow Ricardo to have control of his life—and therefore his death. Lanny and I are joining to support this legislation. Please check it out. (Any my apologies if this is sent more than once. My contacts are a bit disorganized)

Dear Friends,

You all know Ricardo's story. Many of you also know that I returned from Switzerland determined to do whatever I can to work for a change to the very restrictive law currently in place in California. This is the first step in building support for this effort. I'm hoping you will write your own personal greeting to your friends and family in California, copy the letter below and forward it to them. In addition to people in the Bay Area, we're hoping to find as many supporters as possible who live in other parts of the state.

Thanks so much. I know how much this effort would have meant to Ricardo.

*As ever,
Marcia*

Dear friend and Fellow Californian,

I'm writing to ask for your support for a legislative project that will support an individual's right to make end of life decisions. This issue impacted my family profoundly.

I'm working with a small group of people who believe it's time for California's law to be broadened to be in line with what is available in many socially progressive

countries. We will be sending a proposal to state legislators in the hope that it will

countries. We will be sending a proposal to state legislators, in the hope that it will be made into a bill that can be passed by the legislature.

Our proposal makes three requests:

Request #1: Broaden the eligibility criteria for Medical Aid in Dying (MAiD) to include individuals who are suffering from grievous and irremediable diseases, along with those that are expected to die within six months.

Request #2: Allow an individual the choice to self-ingest or receive an IV infusion when utilizing MAiD, in accordance with their personal preferences and medical needs.

Request #3: Allow a person with early to mid-stage dementia to access MAiD when two physicians find that they are mentally competent enough to understand the consequences of their choice.

For this phase of the project, we need to collect names of supporters by September 15. Please [fill out the form](#) and forward this email to your contacts in California as soon as you can.

My family's story: in 2020 my husband, Ricardo, was diagnosed with early-stage dementia after years of cognitive decline. Having seen the devastating effects of dementia in his own family, Ricardo was determined not to allow the disease to rob him of his agency and of his personhood. He decided to end his life before this happened.

This was not easy to accomplish. Many Californians are under the mistaken impression that the current law will help them if they develop dementia or another neurological condition. But in California, the only people who can legally obtain medication to end their lives are those with a terminal illness and less than six months to live. **This restriction rules out anyone with dementia or other neurological disorders, because by the time that person is within six months of death they will have lost the capacity to make and articulate decisions.** [You can learn more about California's current End of Life Option Act here](#)

Ricardo wanted to be able to die at home, but this wasn't possible. The only place in the world where a US citizen with more than six months to live can legally obtain an assisted death is Switzerland. So Ricardo and I, along with our two daughters and their partners, traveled to Switzerland. We were all with Ricardo when he died peacefully on October 1, 2021.

We were fortunate to be able to make this trip. But many people who want an assisted death are either too frail to travel or don't have the financial resources to



do so. The current law in California is based on the outmoded Oregon model, which is 25 years old. With your support, we can push for expanded access to MAiD, so that people like Ricardo will have the right to choose a peaceful death in California.

Thanks in advance,
Marcia Hofer, with the support of Christie Golemb, Janet Hager, Jen Hofer,
Leonard Levenson and Barry Price