

https://buffalonews.com/opinion/letters/article_89679cd6-038b-4e8a-b13e-c577a3d66a96.html

Letter: Medical aid in dying has wide support

Aug 29, 2026

 Gift this article

 Prefer us on Google



In response to the informative article, "Here's what to know about medical aid in dying in Western New York" (August 24), consider that the Medical Aid in Dying Act is about bodily autonomy at the end of life and the freedom to make choices as to how and when to die, consistent with the values of the terminally ill patient.

No one has to use it and few people take the medications as hospice, the gold standard of end-of-life care, effectively relieves suffering in the vast majority of patients. But it cannot adequately relieve the suffering of all of the dying.

Remarkably, there have not been any substantiated cases of abuse or coercion. And, while less than one percent of dying patents access medical aid in dying, thousands more have been comforted knowing that the option is available.

People are also reading...

- 1 **Highmark Stadium's natural grass to be replaced before Bills' home opener**
- 2 **An unusual coffee shop could be coming to Hamburg. (Don't bother applying for a job)**
- 3 **Trooper pleads guilty, resigns after leaking information in drug trafficking investigation**
- 4 **With the preseason complete, a final 53-man roster projection for**

Support for medical aid in dying in New York is overwhelming and widespread among diverse populations and organizations. And just two years ago, the leading medical, legal, nursing and clergy organizations in New York issued public statements in support; the Medical Society of the State of New York, the New York State Bar Association, the New York State Nurses Association and the New York State Council of Churches.

Governor Hochul wisely and compassionately signed the Medical Aid in Dying Act into law. Now dying New Yorkers have a new option to have a safe and peaceful death, one which clearly benefits patients and causes no harm to anyone.

David C. Leven

Executive Director Emeritus and Senior Consultant, End of Life Choices New York

Pelham