



ALS United Greater New York
42 Broadway, Suite 1724
New York, NY 10004
als-ny.org

**MEMO of SUPPORT FOR S.2445a/A.995A
MEDICAL AID IN DYING 2024**

ALS United Greater New York supports S.2445/A.995A Medical Aid in Dying legislation which would provide end-of-life options for adults with an incurable illness or disease. This reform is a vital step towards ensuring that individuals with ALS have a choice to access, if desired, safe, comprehensive end-of-life options, ultimately enhancing their quality of life and honoring their autonomy and dignity.

ALS United Greater New York, supports and empowers the ALS community through a collaborative approach to fostering bold research initiatives, advancing national and state advocacy, and providing comprehensive care and support to individuals and families affected by Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), commonly known as "Lou Gehrig's Disease."

ALS is a relentless progressive disease of the nervous system, causing the degeneration of motor neurons in the brain and spinal cord. This degeneration ultimately leads to the loss of voluntary muscle movement, including the ability to speak, swallow, and breathe. With no known cure, ALS is a terminal illness with a devastating impact on those diagnosed and their loved ones.

Central to our mission is empowering individuals with ALS to make their own decisions regarding their care and ALS journey. We recognize the importance of self-determination and dignity in navigating the challenges posed by this disease.

Therefore, ALS United Greater New York supports the passage of S. 2445A/A.995A Medical Aid in Dying legislation. This legislation would afford mentally competent, terminally ill patients, such as those with ALS, the option to request medication to hasten their death, subject to stringent requirements outlined in the act.

We believe that this legislation is crucial in providing terminally ill patients with a compassionate end-of-life option. It respects the autonomy and wishes of individuals facing the unimaginable challenges of ALS.

Furthermore, we believe that this legislation includes safeguards to protect vulnerable populations and healthcare providers. We acknowledge and respect the diverse range of beliefs within the medical community and society at large, and we believe that this legislation strikes an appropriate balance between providing end-of-life options and ensuring professional ethical considerations are upheld.

In conclusion, ALS United Greater New York urges lawmakers to support S.2445/A.995A Medical Aid in Dying legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kristen Cocoman', written in a cursive style.

Kristen Cocoman
President & CEO
ALS United Greater New York