



The Death with Dignity National Center (DDNC) is the leader in establishing, advancing and defending the ability of persons with terminal illness to determine their own end-of-life care.

Since developing the landmark **1994 Oregon Death with Dignity Act**, the DDNC has successfully defended the law against all political and legal challenges. In October 2005, the DDNC will again defend the will of the people before the U.S. Supreme Court in *Gonzales v. Oregon*. The case represents an unprecedented federal intrusion into the regulation of medical practice at the state level.

Death with Dignity National Center and its predecessor organizations took the lead in drafting and passing Oregon's landmark Death with Dignity law in 1994 and defeating repeal efforts in 1997. Since 1997, DDNC has been the lead strategist in the political, legal and social defense and promotion of the law, working closely with local leaders in Maine (2000), Hawaii (2002) and Vermont (2004-5) to propose similar legislation.

Leading the legal defense of the law, DDNC along with other petitioners, has been successful at every level of court through two separate sets of federal court cases protecting Oregon's law. DDNC was the lead organization in defending the Oregon law against Congressional attack in 1998 and 1999 and has maintained a constant presence in the Oregon legislature to preserve and protect the law.

Educational efforts include outreach to medical students through DDNC's "Next Generation" program and countless professional education and speaking engagements, as well as publishing by its distinguished Board of Directors.

Death with Dignity National Center is a 501(c)3 non-profit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to legal defense and public education. These efforts are funded by foundation grants and generous individual donations. The DDNC's 501(c)4 political action fund is a distinct entity dedicated to political and advocacy activities.

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