

**From: Justin Mayhew, Public Policy Polling®**

**To: Interested Parties**

**Subject: Maine Voters Overwhelmingly Support Proposal to Grant Terminally Ill Patients the Right to End Life**

**Date: March 28, 2017**

A new Public Policy Polling survey finds that Maine voters are decisively in favor of a bill being considered by the state legislature that would expand terminally ill patients' rights to obtain a physician's prescription for life-ending medication. Almost three-in-four Mainers (73%) support the proposal, while just 23% oppose it. Support for the bill is bipartisan, diverse, and broad-based, with majorities of women (74%), men (73%), Democrats (84%), Republicans (59%), Independents (78%), Catholic voters (65%), Protestants (72%), voters with no religion (96%), voters age 18 to 29 (68%), voters 30 to 45 (72%), voters 46 to 65 (77%), and voters over 65 (73%) all in favor of expanding the rights of the terminally ill.

Key findings from the survey include:

- Support for the proposal grew as voters heard more about the measure. After listening to a series of statements about the provisions of the bill, 75% of voters said they were either "strongly" or "somewhat" in favor of the bill, an increase of two points from the initial tally.
- Voters were most encouraged by the bill's vigilance in handling the delicate process of terminally ill patients choosing to end their lives. 75% of Mainers said they were more likely to support the measure after hearing it includes a provision that physicians must fully inform patients of all possible alternative treatments before prescribing life-ending medication. A similar 72% said they were more likely to back the bill after learning that it requires the patient to be mentally capable of making his or her decision, and 71% said they were more likely to back the bill after hearing that both the attending physician and consulting physician must confirm the patient's terminal diagnosis before prescribing life-ending medication.

- Voters were also read supporting and opposing statements regarding the issue of patients' right to life-ending treatment. At least 81% of voters agreed with each of the three statements in support of life-ending treatment, while none of the opposing statements received over 52% support. Voters were most united in their agreement with the statement that “patients should be allowed to die in as humane and dignified a manner as they see fit,” with 87% in agreement either “strongly” or “somewhat.”

PPP surveyed 798 Maine voters from March 24-26, 2017. The margin of error for the survey is +/-3.5 %. This poll was conducted by automated telephone interviews.