

DEATH WITH  
DIGNITY  
POLITICAL  
ACTION FUND

Death with Dignity National Center  
Death with Dignity Political Action Fund

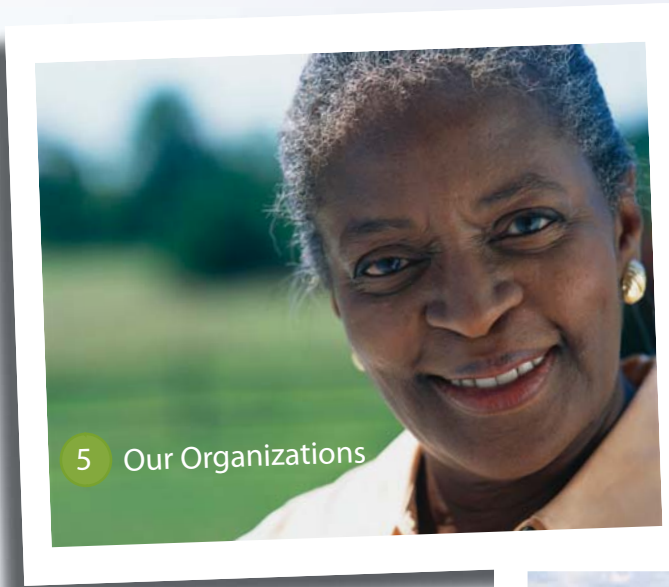
# ANNUAL REPORT 2012

WORKING TO PRESERVE, PROTECT AND  
PROMOTE DIGNITY SINCE 1994

**PRESERVE, PROTECT &  
PROMOTE**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Message from our Executive Director.....	3
Mission Statement.....	4
Our Family of Organizations.....	5
Preserve & Protect Dignity.....	6
Promote Dignity.....	7
An Investment in Progress.....	8
Financial Statements.....	9-10
Our Board and Staff.....	11
The Gift of Dignity.....	12
Leave A Legacy of Dignity.....	13
Stay Connected.....	14



WORKING TO PRESERVE,  
PROTECT AND  
PROMOTE DIGNITY

## A Message from our Executive Director



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

What an exciting year for the National Center. We, along with our sister organization the Death with Dignity Political Fund, built the campaign for Death with Dignity in Massachusetts. We wrote the law, we paid for early staffing, and we provided the campaign with critical seed money.

During the early days of the campaign it became clear the people of Massachusetts were ready for Death with Dignity. We sponsored conversations about dying all over the Commonwealth. During every speaking engagement and private house party, individuals shared their personal and intimate stories. Hearing these stories confirms for me there is something profoundly wrong with a society that produces so many horror stories about dying. It's time for change.

When I tell people we are shifting our efforts to New England, they get very excited. It is easy to marginalize accomplishments in the Death with Dignity movement because state-level reform has occurred in only two states. The reality is in 15 short years, we've achieved policy reform in two states and won a monumental case in the U. S. Supreme Court. Social movements are slow and ponderous behemoths, and change is wrought by lurching forward in a lumbering fashion.

By shifting to New England, we hope to steer this movement toward greater progress. Bringing the Death with Dignity conversation to population centers on the East Coast will mean more awareness of the horror stories and more pressure for policy reform. It will mean greater awareness and a more heated public debate.

Opponents to change always try to stop progress, but the momentum we've started in New England will not be stopped. Death with Dignity will become part of the national conversation, to that end we strive.

In progress,

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read 'Peg Sandeen'.

Peg Sandeen, MSW  
Executive Director

# PRESERVE, PROTECT AND PROMOTE



# OUR MISSION

## ***WORKING TO PRESERVE, PROTECT AND PROMOTE DIGNITY SINCE 1994***

The mission of the Death with Dignity National Center is to provide information, education, research and support for the preservation, implementation and promotion of Death with Dignity laws which allow a terminally ill, mentally competent adult the right to request and receive a prescription to hasten death under certain specific safeguards. We promote Death with Dignity laws based on our model legislation, the Oregon Death with Dignity Act, as a stimulus to nationwide improvements in end-of-life care and as an option for dying individuals. We accomplish our mission by working to defend and promote Death with Dignity laws in court and in the court of public opinion through our nonprofit Death with Dignity National Center [501(c)(3)], and by working directly with public policymakers through our affiliated Political Action Fund [501(c)(4)].



# Our Family of Organizations



The Center is comprised of two organizations, the Death with Dignity National Center and the Death with Dignity Political Action Fund, which work together to meet one mission. Both organizations are headquartered in Portland, Oregon, and they share office space and an Executive Director. Each organization is governed by a separate board of directors with separate financial records.

The **Death with Dignity National Center** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization focusing on public education and legal defense. This organization hosts the informational website, [www.DeathWithDignity.org](http://www.DeathWithDignity.org), and provides educational materials and referrals for terminally ill patients and their family members nationwide. The National Center provides targeted education to a wide variety of stakeholders who are interested in Oregon’s model Death with Dignity law, including medical students, elected officials, reporters and members of the media, college students, and church officials. The Center has a long history of providing legal representation to Oregon physicians and pharmacists notably those who were the focus of the Supreme Court case *Gonzales v. Oregon*.

The **Death with Dignity Political Action Fund** is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit, social welfare organization which traces its lineage to the original Oregon Right to Die PAC. This organization provides political experience and expertise to activists and organizations in other states. You can find information about this organization’s history and activities as well as sign up for action alerts through its website, [ActionFund.DeathWithDignity.org](http://ActionFund.DeathWithDignity.org). This organization was one of the leaders in the successful Death with Dignity ballot initiative campaign in Washington State and is currently partnering with *Patient Choices Vermont* on a Death with Dignity legislative effort in that state, and with *Dignity 2012* on a Death with Dignity ballot initiative in Massachusetts.



# PRESERVE & PROTECT DIGNITY

Since our predecessor organization, Oregon Right to Die, worked to pass the first Death with Dignity law in the nation, our family of organizations has continued to advocate for and defend Oregon's landmark law. After Oregonians voted to make Death with Dignity a legal end-of-life care option for terminally ill, mentally competent adults, the law continued to face legal challenges all of which we fought and won.

*Some key moments along the way:*

**1994:** Oregonians voted in favor of the new Death with Dignity law. In December, 1994, the case *Lee v. State of Oregon* became the Oregon law's first legal challenge in which U.S. District Court Judge Michael R. Hogan placed a temporary injunction on the implementation of the Death with Dignity Act.

**1995:** In August, District Judge Hogan made the injunction permanent, ruling that the Oregon Death with Dignity Act violates the U.S. Constitution's Equal Protection clause. The ruling was immediately appealed to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

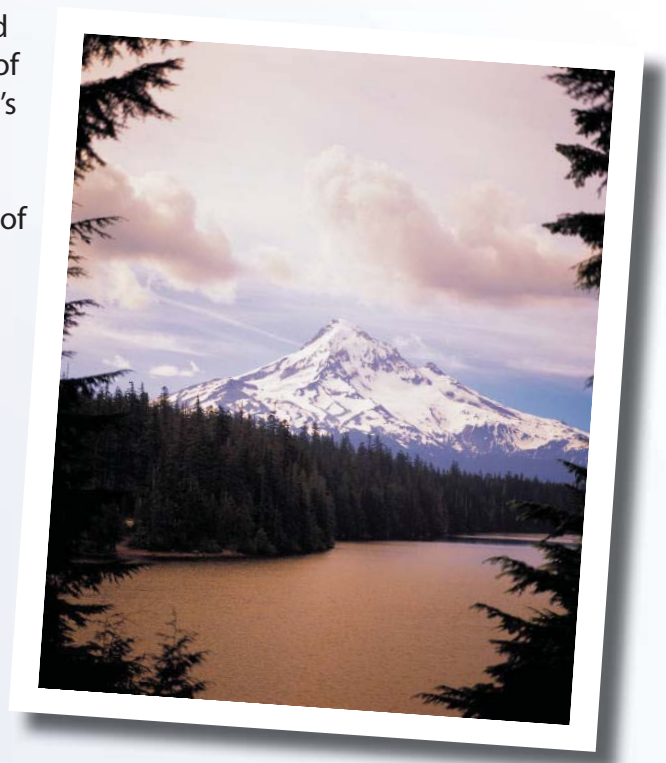
**1997:** In February, a three-judge panel of the Ninth Circuit Appeals Court dismissed the District Court's challenge to Oregon's Death with Dignity law.

Measure 51 would have repealed Oregon's Death with Dignity Act (known as Measure 16), which legalized Death with Dignity. Measure 51 was sent to the ballot by the Oregon Legislative Assembly, and was defeated in the November 4, 1997 special election with 445,830 votes in favor, and 666,275 votes against.

**2001:** On November 6, new U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft attempted to block the Oregon Death with Dignity Act by issuing his "Ashcroft Directive" authorizing DEA agents to investigate and prosecute doctors who prescribe federally controlled drugs to help terminally ill patients die.

**2006:** On January 17, 2006, the Supreme Court voted 6-3 to uphold Oregon's Death with Dignity law in the case *Gonzales v. Oregon*, ruling that former Attorney General John Ashcroft overstepped his authority in seeking to punish doctors who prescribed drugs to help terminally ill patients end their lives. In the decision, the Supreme Court said that the Oregon law supersedes federal authority to regulate physicians and that the Bush administration improperly attempted to use the Controlled Substance Act to prosecute Oregon physicians who assist patients under the Death with Dignity Act.

**2011:** In Oregon, several legislators sponsored a bill that would have made it more costly and difficult to use Oregon's Death with Dignity law. We worked to stop this effort which would have limited access for eligible terminally ill patients who wanted to use the law.



# PRESERVE, PROTECT AND PROMOTE



# PROMOTE DIGNITY

## MASSACHUSETTS

The Death with Dignity National Center founded the political committee, Dignity 2012, paid its staff to organize the effort in Massachusetts, and provided early financial, political and legal support. From inception to completion, we are committed to this critical effort which we believe is poised for success.

To date the Death with Dignity National Center has:

- Consulted with the Massachusetts legal team to coauthor the Massachusetts Death with Dignity Act
- Provided expertise and advice based on our 20 years of experience with the issue
- Directly funded the first successful phase of signature gathering with a \$100,000 donation
- Underwrote the second successful signature gathering effort, in large part through the generous donations of our board, who reached into their own pockets to donate \$80,000
- Donated staff time and resources to support the early stages of their work



## VERMONT

There has been outstanding progress in Vermont's Death with Dignity effort. Over the last two years, support among Vermonters for the issue has grown from 64% to 72%. This is due to the incredible amount of work the local group, Patient Choices Vermont, has done over the last 10 years to build grassroots support. We are proud to partner with them in this endeavor.

As part of our partnership with them, we:

- Helped raise funds for their efforts
- Donated countless hours of phone consultation time, drawing on our organization's years of experience in providing education and promoting a change in public policy regarding end-of-life options
- Published several educational blog posts and emails directed at people living in New England
- Sponsored public forums and educational workshops
- Sent several speakers from Oregon and Washington to share their experience in these two states with Vermonters

As a result of the positive response from Vermonters, and the progress made in 2011-2012 legislative session, Patient Choices Vermont is geared to move forward again. Just as we have over the years, we will partner with them in their continued effort to bring the right to die with dignity to Vermont.



# An Investment in Progress

**Preserve, Protect, and Promote.** These are three words we live by every day and we are constantly reminded of the significance these three words have in our mission. It is our duty, as the family of organizations that wrote and worked to pass the first Death with Dignity law in the nation, to ensure we are always striving to meet these goals.

Our organizational history parallels the journey of Oregon's time-tested Death with Dignity law over the last 18 years. Where we are today is a testament to the commitment and dedication we enjoy from the thousands of donors and friends like you who support our work. Since the beginning, the Death with Dignity law and its proponents have repeatedly come under attack. Each time, through your generous support, we have been able to step up to the challenge and win.

We are thrilled to be on the cusp of a third and possibly fourth state with a Death with Dignity law. The progress we have made motivates us to forge ahead. Your investment in us has also been an investment in the Massachusetts and Vermont Death with Dignity efforts. Because we believe every terminally ill adult should have the right to choose the manner and timing of their own death and to die with dignity, we will proudly continue to preserve, protect, and promote Death with Dignity laws throughout the U.S.

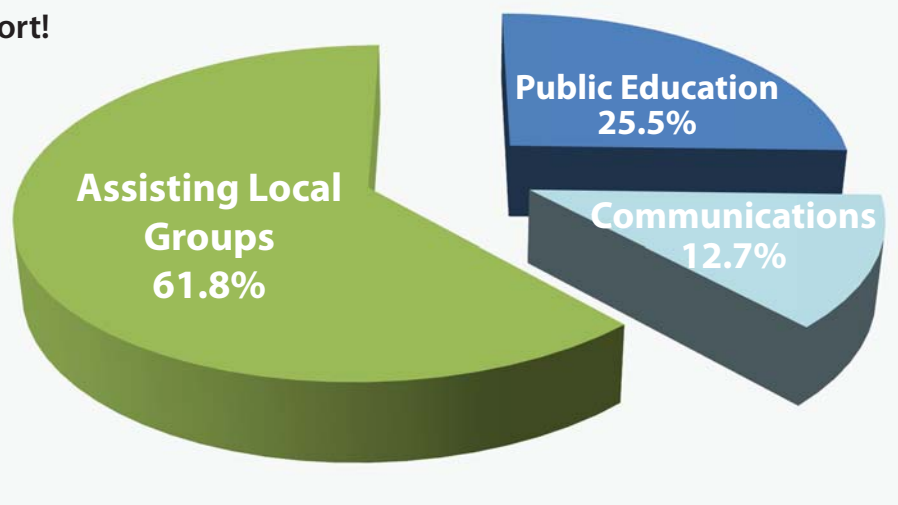


## Investing Your Contributions Wisely

We are very grateful for your generous support. It is important to us to invest your hard-earned dollars wisely. This chart shows how our program dollars were spent during the 2011-2012 fiscal year.\*



**Thank you so much for your support!**



*\*These amounts are derived from audited financial statements.*



# Consolidated Financial Statements

Death with Dignity National Center and Death with Dignity Political Action Fund  
Comparative Financial Operations Report for the years ending March 31, 2012 and 2011.

## Consolidated Statements of Financial Position

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$97,773	\$56,469
Contributions receivable	-	25,000
Prepaid expenses	4,167	6,736
Investments	226,505	352,132
Property and equipment, net	22,267	8,824
	<u>22,267</u>	<u>8,824</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$350,712</u></b>	<b><u>\$449,161</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable & accrued expenses	\$21,166	\$7,551
Total liabilities	21,166	7,551
	<u>21,166</u>	<u>7,551</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted net assets:		
Undesignated	\$259,074	\$338,231
Board designated	48,205	48,161
Property and equipment, net	22,267	8,824
Total unrestricted net assets	\$329,546	\$395,216
Temporarily restricted net assets	-	46,394
Total net assets	\$329,546	\$441,610
	<u>\$329,546</u>	<u>\$441,610</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$350,712</u></b>	<b><u>\$449,161</u></b>

*These amounts are derived from audited financial statements.*

*The Death with Dignity National Center fiscal year 2011-2012 financials and 2011 tax forms filed in 2012 (IRS Form 990) are available at: [www.DeathWithDignity.org/aboutus/annual-report](http://www.DeathWithDignity.org/aboutus/annual-report).*

*The Death with Dignity Political Action Fund fiscal year 2011-2012 financials are available at: [ActionFund.DeathWithDignity.org/aboutus/annual-report](http://ActionFund.DeathWithDignity.org/aboutus/annual-report).*

# Consolidated Financial Statements

Death with Dignity National Center and Death with Dignity Political Action Fund  
Comparative Financial Operations Reports for the years ending March 31, 2012 and 2011.

## Consolidated Statements of Activities

	2012			2011		
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
<b>REVENUE AND SUPPORT:</b>						
Contributions	\$531,408	\$52,583	\$583,991	\$358,093	\$103,205	\$461,298
Grants	2,000	-	2,000	26,550	-	26,550
In-kind contributions	28,633	-	28,633	9,900	-	9,900
Income (loss) on investments	7,247	-	7,247	43,727	-	43,727
Net assets released from restrictions:						
Satisfaction of purpose restrictions	98,977	(98,977)	-	60,000	(60,000)	-
<b>TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT</b>	<b>\$668,265</b>	<b>(\$46,394)</b>	<b>\$621,871</b>	<b>\$498,270</b>	<b>\$43,205</b>	<b>\$541,475</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>						
Program services:						
Public Education	\$149,012	-	\$149,012	\$149,762	-	\$149,762
Communication	74,312	-	74,312	83,351	-	83,351
Oregon Plus One	361,736	-	361,736	154,776	-	154,776
Total Program Services	\$585,060	-	\$585,060	\$387,889	-	\$387,889
Management and general	39,846	-	39,846	39,493	-	39,493
Fundraising	109,029	-	109,029	115,597	-	115,597
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>733,935</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>733,935</b>	<b>\$542,979</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$542,979</b>
<b>Change in net assets</b>	<b>(\$65,670)</b>	<b>(\$46,394)</b>	<b>(\$112,064)</b>	<b>(\$44,709)</b>	<b>\$43,205</b>	<b>(\$1,504)</b>
<b>NET ASSETS:</b>						
Beginning of year	\$395,216	\$46,394	\$441,610	\$439,925	\$3,189	\$443,114
End of year	\$329,546	-	\$329,546	\$395,216	\$46,394	\$441,610

These amounts are derived from audited financial statements.

Copies of the full audit are available at 520 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 1220, Portland, OR 97204.

# Our Board & Staff

## Directors

### Death with Dignity National Center

Dan Gregorie, MD  
Edward Lowenstein, MD  
Alan Meisel, JD  
Carol Pratt, PhD, JD  
Eli D. Stutsman, JD  
Steve Telfer

## Officers

### Death with Dignity National Center

Steve Telfer, *President*  
Dan Gregorie, *Vice President*  
Carol Pratt, *Treasurer*  
Alan Meisel, *Assistant Treasurer*  
Eli Stutsman, *Secretary*

## Directors

### Death with Dignity Political Action Fund

Charles "Buzzy" Baron, LLB, PhD  
Dan Gregorie, MD  
Midge Levy, ACSW  
David "Doc" Mayo, PhD  
Carol Pratt, PhD, JD  
Betty Rollin  
Eli D. Stutsman, JD

## Officers

### Death with Dignity Political Action Fund

Steve Telfer, *President*  
Dan Gregorie, *Vice President*  
Carol Pratt, *Treasurer*  
Alan Meisel, *Assistant Treasurer*  
Eli Stutsman, *Secretary*

## Staff

Peg Sandeen, MSW, *Executive Director*  
Terry Miley, MPA, *Director of Finance and Operations*  
DeVida Johnson, *Development Manager*  
Melissa Barber, *Electronic Communications Specialist*  
Pete Hybertsen, MA, *Outreach Supervisor*  
Shaun Fairlee, *Outreach Coordinator*  
Cassandra Garrison, *Outreach Coordinator*  
Mike Zotter, *Outreach Coordinator*



WORKING TO PRESERVE,  
PROTECT AND  
PROMOTE DIGNITY



# The Gift of Dignity

We could not maintain our track record of success without your support. At the same time, we recognize you have goals you would like to achieve through giving. The Death with Dignity National Center offers a variety of giving options to meet each donor's needs. Our fundraising efforts are designed to give a voice to the overwhelming majority of Americans who support the right of terminally ill individuals to make their own end-of-life decisions. Our commitment is to improve health care for those who are terminally ill by guaranteeing that a range of options is available to each and every one of those we serve. Together we can help ensure access and dignity for all people.

## Outright Gifts

Gifts can be made individually and directly to the Death with Dignity National Center for unrestricted support of our mission or designated for a specific purpose.

## Automatic Recurring Gifts

You can provide ongoing, reliable support to the mission of the Death with Dignity National Center through our *Sustaining Partner Program* with monthly or quarterly donations transferred directly from your debit or credit card. You have no checks to write, no payments to remember, and no envelopes to mail. You can set up your Sustaining Partner gift by mail, phone, or through our secure online donation form.

## Bequests and Planned Gifts

Bequests and Planned Gifts enable you to leave a legacy for future generations and create a lasting commitment to dignity and improved end-of-life options for all. You can make an outright bequest by leaving a specific dollar amount or a percentage of your estate. Your estate planner can guide you through this process. If you are interested in a Planned Gift, you can work with your estate planner to set up an annuity trust, a unitrust, or a gift annuity\*, or you can designate the Death with Dignity National Center as a beneficiary on your life insurance or retirement plan to create a permanent legacy for change. Please see the following page for details and to read why one supporter has chosen to include the Death with Dignity National Center in her estate plans.

## Gifts of Stock or Mutual Funds

Donating stocks or mutual funds may provide you a charitable deduction for the fair market value of your gift, along with an exemption from capital gains tax. We have a broker/consultant who will assist you with completing your gift of stock or mutual funds. Please contact us for more information.

## Giving In Memory or In Honor of Someone

Memorial and honorary gifts celebrate the lives and achievements of special individuals in a lasting way.

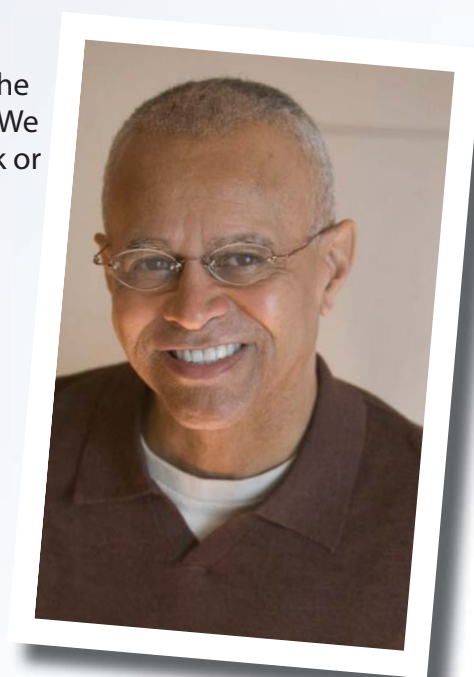
## Workplace Matching Gifts

If you are an employee or retiree and your company has a matching gifts program, you can double or even triple the value of your gift at no additional cost to you. Your company's Human Resources office can provide appropriate information and forms.

*\*Please note currently we can only set up gift annuities for residents of Oregon.*



*The Death with Dignity National Center is a Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance Accredited Charity.*



# Leave a Legacy of Dignity

*"I watched my mother, father, and two brothers die slow, horrible deaths. I've included the Death with Dignity National Center in my estate plans because I want to ensure future generations won't have to suffer like my loved ones did."*

*~Dee, Providence, RI*



**Have you left your legacy? I have and I encourage you to do the same.**

It is never too late to plan ahead. One way you can advocate for Death with Dignity is to help ensure the Death with Dignity National Center's long-term financial strength. A wonderful way to accomplish this is to do what I did and include them in your estate plans. In doing so you will Leave a Legacy of Dignity to future generations. Two of the most common ways are bequests and planned gifts.

It is very easy to include them in your bequest. See the box to your right for sample language.

If you have questions about including the Death with Dignity National Center in your will or setting up a planned gift, please call DeVida at 503.228.4415 or speak with your attorney.

**Bequests to the Death with Dignity National Center** may be made by including the following language in your will:

"I give, devise, and bequeath to the Death with Dignity National Center, 520 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 1220, Portland, Oregon 97204, EIN #: 93-1162366, \_\_\_\_\_% of my estate or the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (or describe stocks, bonds, life insurance, or other assets) to be used for the general purpose of defending and promoting Death with Dignity laws throughout the United States."

# STAY CONNECTED

## **Death with Dignity National Center**

520 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 1220  
Portland, OR 97204-1510  
503.228.4415 / Fax 503.967.7064

[www.DeathWithDignity.org](http://www.DeathWithDignity.org)  
[info@DeathWithDignity.org](mailto:info@DeathWithDignity.org)  
[facebook.com/DeathwithDignity](https://facebook.com/DeathwithDignity)  
[twitter.com/DeathwDignity](https://twitter.com/DeathwDignity)

## **Death with Dignity Political Action Fund**

520 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 1220  
Portland, OR 97204-1510  
503.228.4415 / Fax 503.967.7064

[ActionFund.DeathWithDignity.org](http://ActionFund.DeathWithDignity.org)



**WORKING TO PRESERVE,  
PROTECT AND  
PROMOTE DIGNITY**