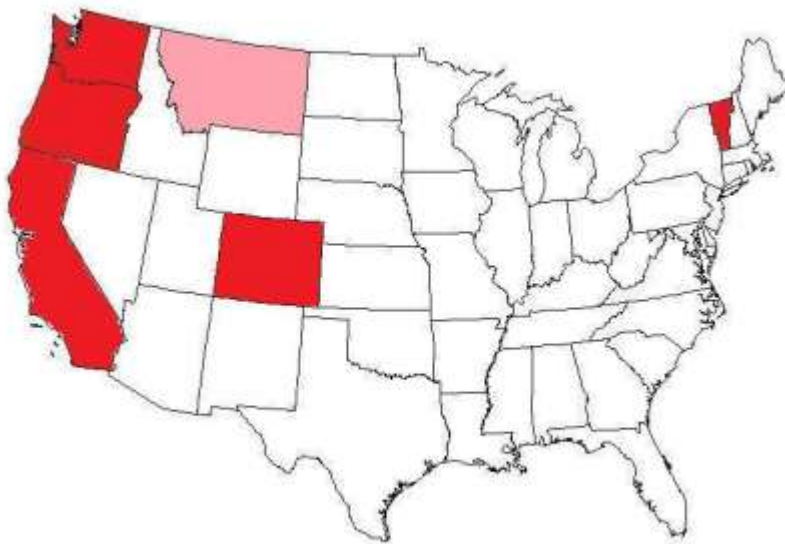




# Assisting Suicide in the United States

Well over 100 attempts to legalize assisted suicide through ballot initiatives and legislative proposal have failed. Many attempts to persuade state courts, and one attempt to persuade the U.S. Supreme court to find a right to assisted suicide have also failed.



 Five States expressly authorize physician Assisted Suicide:  
CA, CO, OR, VT, WA

 The MT State Supreme Court, declining to find a state constitutional right to assisted suicide found no public policy against consent as a defense.

\*there is an approved measure in D.C. pending action

## 45 States Do Not Authorize Assisting Suicide

36 States Prohibit by Statute:  
AK, AZ, AR, CA, CT, DE, FL, GA, ID, IN, IA, KS, KY, LA, ME, MD, MI, MN, MS, MO, NE, NH, NJ, NM, NY, ND, OH, OK, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, VA, WI

2 States Prohibit by Common Law:  
MA, WV

1 State Prohibits as Negligent Homicide:  
AL

6 States Have No Law:  
HI, IL, NV, NC, UT, WY

## What does the U.S. Supreme Court say?

In the 1997 Supreme Court Case, *Washington v. Glucksberg*, 521 U.S. 702, assisted suicide proponents contended that a fundamental right to assisted suicide exists under the Due Process Clauses. The Glucksberg Court *unanimously* held that no such fundamental right to assisted suicide exists.



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