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James Lee, President

To: All Interested Parties

From: Jim Lee, SP&R CEO & President

Re: **Nationwide Poll Shows Strong Support for Advance Care-Dementia Planning, Medical Aid in Dying**

USA SURVEY OVERVIEW

Nov. 24, 2021

Susquehanna Polling and Research, a respected survey firm profiled on two segments of CBS's *Inside Edition* for its unmatched accuracy in 5 key battleground states in the 2020 Presidential election, today releases its latest Nationwide Telephone Voter Attitude Survey testing attitudes and opinions towards end-of-life-care decision-making. The poll is a sample of likely voters weighted to U.S. Census demographic data for all 50 states. Conducted Nov. 2-10, 2021, the poll includes telephone interviews with N=951 likely voters and has a margin of error of +/-3.1% at the 95% confidence level.

The key findings of the poll include the following:

- An overwhelming 93% of likely voters believe adults should decide ahead of time and document in writing – via the preparation of either advance directives and/or living wills - decisions about what medical care they want or don't want in case they can't speak for themselves due to life-limiting illnesses or injuries.
- By a 58%-18% margin, likely voters “agree” it is OK for people in the early stages of dementia (dah-men-sha) to document their decision in writing to forgo invasive, life-extending medical treatment once they no longer recognize their loved ones. By a similar 56:19 margin, likely voters also agree it's ok for dementia patients to forgo food and liquids and die a natural death once they no longer recognize their loved ones. Support for giving early-stage dementia patients these options is broad-based and bipartisan and includes majorities of respondents regardless of political party, age, ethnicity, gender identity, religious affiliation, or level of education.
- Sixty-eight (68) percent of likely voters believe a mentally sound adult with an incurable, terminal illness, who only has six months or less to live, should have the legal option to obtain prescription medication to pass peacefully in their sleep, known as “medical aid in dying.” When respondents are asked if they want the option of medical aid in dying personally for themselves, 67% said yes. Support for medical aid in dying as a personal option is broad-based and bipartisan and includes majorities of respondents in all key voter groups, including:
 - 70% of self-identified Democrats, 68% of self-identified Republicans, and 63% of self-identified Independents
 - 66% of both Catholic and Protestant voters and 83% of Jewish voters
 - 67% of Caucasians, 70% of Latinx, and 62% of African American voters

- 70% of voters 18-44 years old, 57% of voters 45-54 years old, 69% of voters 55-64 years old, and 67% of voters 65 years of age or older
 - 66% of self-identified conservatives, 70% of moderates, and 59% of progressive and liberal voters
 - When respondents are told 10 of the 50 states (as well as Washington, D.C.) currently have the option of medical aid in dying, 69% said their own state should also have this option. This support includes majorities of voters in all geographic regions of the USA - including the Northeast and South (66%), Midwest (61%), North Central (69%), Southwest (79%), and West (62%). The fact that majorities in all area cohorts support the option for medical aid in dying suggests results can be “generalized” to assume this majority support applies to all 50 states.
 - Fifty-one (51) percent of likely voters say they would be “more likely” to vote for a candidate for the State Legislature who sponsors or supports legislation in their home state to allow for the option of medical aid in dying. Only 6% said they would be negatively affected - suggesting support for medical aid-in-dying legislation has little political “downside” for proponents.
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METHODOLOGY, SAMPLE FRAME CONSTRUCTION AND DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURES

This telephone poll is commissioned by Compassion & Choices and conducted by Susquehanna Polling and Research, Inc. Interviews were conducted Nov. 2-10, 2021, with 951 registered voters in the continental USA. Survey respondents are randomly contacted using random selection procedures, and all telephone interviews are conducted using live telephone agents. The sample frame was drawn from a randomly selected universe of U.S. households provided by L2, Inc. of Bothell, WA, which uses census state population data compiled from certified voter registration rolls, as well as computer coding protocols to ensure the sample is both random and geographically representative of the U.S. population. Eligible respondents are then pre-selected for the sample frame-based primarily on U.S. households with prior vote history in at least 1 of 4 (or better) general elections, using G20, G19, G18 and/or G17 as the base universe; new registrants to the voter rolls since G20 are also eligible to be contacted. The sample frame includes a mix of both landline and cellular households consistent with the latest telephone usable patterns available. Households are pre-screened to eliminate telephone numbers on the federal Do Not Call registry in compliance with federal law.

Interviews are closely monitored to ensure a representative sample of registered voters in the USA is achieved based on party self-identification, geography, racial background, gender identity, age, and other demographics; results are sometimes statistically weighted to account for non-response and/or coverage bias.

The margin of error for a sample size of 951 interviews is +/-3.1% at the 95% confidence level
