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November 21, 2023

New York State Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie New York State Assembly Legislative Office Building, Room 932 Albany, New York 12248

Dear Speaker Heastie,

We, the undersigned County Legislators of Tompkins County, New York, are writing in support of the Medical Aid in Dying Act, S2445/A0995A. We had a public meeting on this topic on October 16, 2023. Based on the information we have read and heard, we support the right of a person with a 6-month terminal diagnosis to make their own medical decisions, including the right to end their suffering under medical supervision, as outlined in the bill. We understand that some people feel that this bill opens up the possibility that an individual could be taken advantage of, but we also feel that the bill contains numerous safeguards to protect individuals from manipulation. The Medical Aid in Dying Act would result in a practical, dignified, and responsible end-of-life option for Tompkins County residents who find themselves in this situation.

Sincerely,

Shawna Black, Chairwoman, District 11

Tompkins County Legislator

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Travis Brooks, District 1

Tompkins County Legislature

Dan Klein, Vice Chair, District 7 Tompkins County Legislator

Veronica Pillar, District 2 Tompkins County Legislature Susan Currie

Susan Currie, District 3 Tompkins County Legislature

Anne Koreman, District 5
Tompkins County Legislator

Deborah Dawson, District 10 Tompkins County Legislature

Gregory N. Mezey, District 13 Tompkins County Legislature

Cc:

New York State Assemblymember Anna Kelles New York State Assemblymember Amy Paulin Richard John, District 4 Tompkins County Legislature

Randy Brown, District 8 Tompkins County Legislature

Amanda Champion, District 12 Tompkins County Legislature