

Assisted Suicide in the United States: Oregon, Washington, Michigan, Montana

Michigan

1990's Dr. Jack Kevorkian



- Kevorkian assists with dozens of assisted suicides 1990 and 1998.



- Michigan Courts: assisted suicide is not illegal. Most cases thrown out.

Oregon

1994 “Death with Dignity Act”



- Passed with 51%
- Allows doctors to prescribe lethal doses, on the conditions of:
 - (1) 6-months of life remaining
 - (2) resident of Oregon
 - (3) competence
 - (4) voluntary action
 - (5) patient **self-administration**
- 2008: Won challenge with 6-3 in Oregon v. Ashcroft/Gonzales

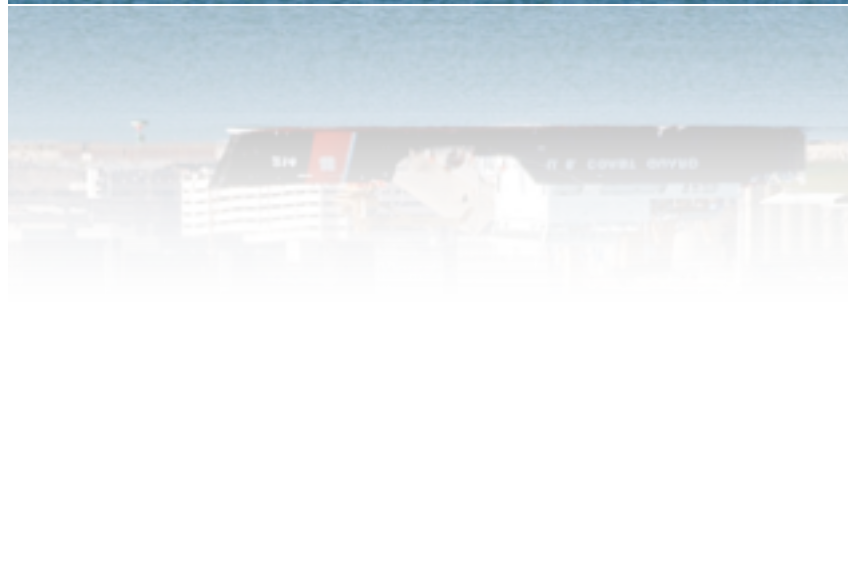
Michigan

1998 Kevorkian Convicted of Murder



- 60 minutes airs Kevorkian video of **active euthanasia**.
- Thomas Youk: ALS patient requests lethal injection, which Kevorkian administers.
- Jury finally rules against him

Judge: *“you had the audacity to go on national television, show the world what you did and dare the legal system to stop you. Well, sir, consider yourself stopped.”*



Washington

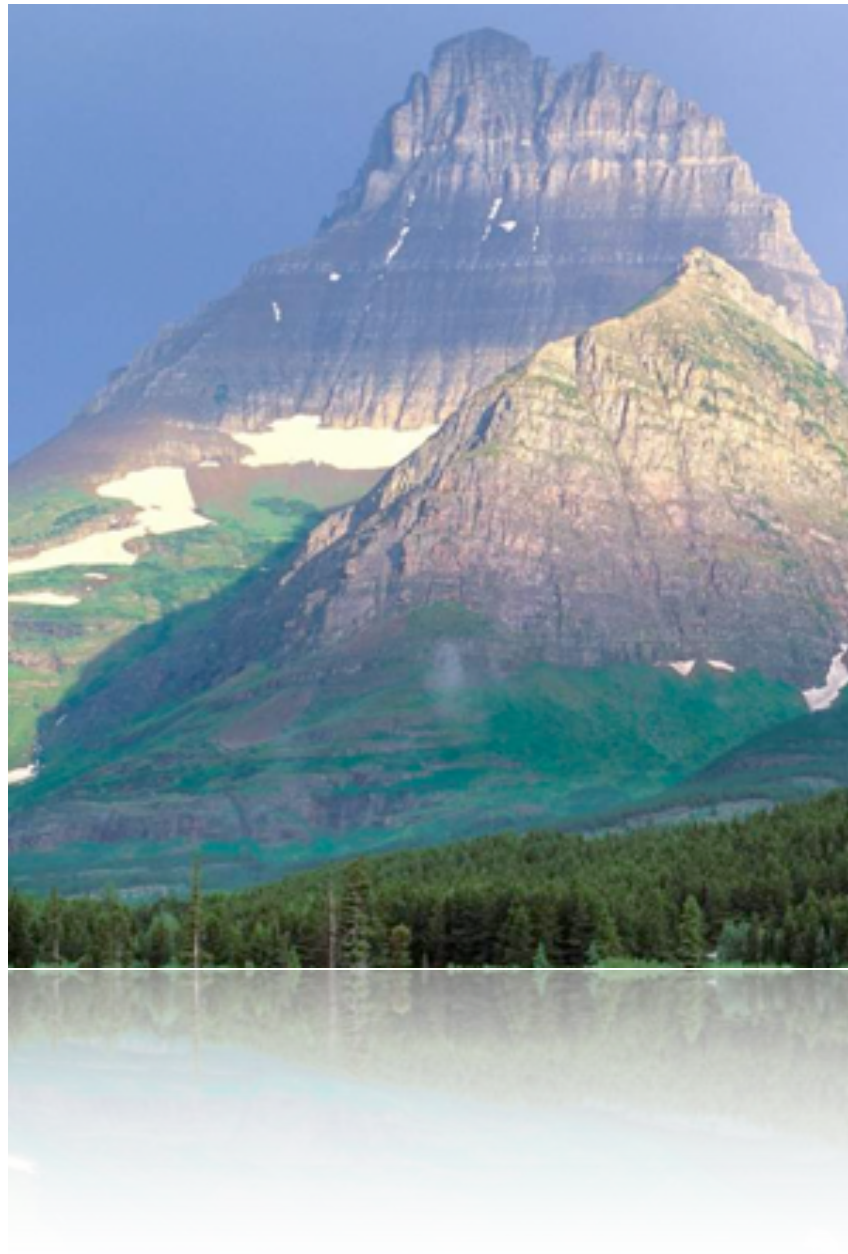
2008 “Initiative 1000”



- Passed with 58%
- Allows doctors to prescribe lethal doses, on the conditions of:
 - (1) 6-months of life remaining
 - (2) resident of Washington
 - (3) competence
 - (4) voluntary action
 - (5) patient **self-administration**
- Originally failed with 49% in 1998.

Montana

2009 “Baxter v. Montana”



- Robert Baxter: 76 year old Leukemia patient requesting assistance in suicide.
- Montana’s Supreme Court:
Sep, 2009: *"nothing in Montana Supreme Court precedent or Montana statutes indicating that physician aid in dying is against public policy."*