



Barbara Coombs Lee
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Barbara Coombs Lee is President of Compassion & Choices, a nonprofit organization dedicated to expanding and protecting the rights of the terminally ill. She practiced as a nurse and physician assistant for 25 years before beginning a career in law and health policy. Since then she has devoted her professional life to individual choice and empowerment in health care. As a private attorney, as counsel to the Oregon State Senate, as a managed care executive and finally as Chief Petitioner for Oregon's Death with Dignity Act, she has championed initiatives that enable individuals to consider a full range of choices and be full participants in their health care decisions.

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Blog Entries by Barbara Coombs Lee

Five States Give Patients Choice

Posted September 27, 2010 | 11:33 AM (EST)

"There's nothing more we can do." For too long, for too many, medical professionals have used these words when they believe they cannot cure their patients. Facing, as each of us must, the nearness of death, terminally ill patients too often speak of abandonment by...

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Medical Society of New York Fights Palliative Care Information Act Despite Mounting Evidence

[2 Comments](#) | Posted September 3, 2010 | 04:33 PM (EST)

The ink of Governor Paterson's signature is barely dry on New York's Palliative Care Information Act (PCIA), drafted and sponsored by Compassion & Choices and its New York affiliate, yet evidence mounts daily for its vast and dramatic impact on end-of-life care. I predict this bill...

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New York's Palliative Care Information Act: A Sea Change in End-of-Life Care

[2 Comments](#) | Posted August 19, 2010 | 07:01 PM (EST)

Word came Sunday night from Compassion & Choices New York that Governor Paterson had signed our bill, the Palliative Care Information Act, (PCIA) and it would take effect in 180 days. Hooray!! We hope and trust this event marks the beginning of the end for endemic medical habits that...

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Compassion & Choices Membership: Something to be Proud Of

Posted July 14, 2010 | 03:15 PM (EST)

Recently Capitol Hill staffers pulled Compassion & Choices into federal politics, suggesting the new Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Donald Berwick, should be called before Congress to answer accusations that he is a member, or affiliated somehow with C&C. "Are you now,...