

Consecutively from 2002-2017, the Legislature funded the **WV Center for End-of-Life Care** to ensure that West Virginians received the **best education, resources, and assistance for medical advance care planning**. The Center has remained dedicated to the goal of guaranteeing West Virginians' end-of-life wishes are known and respected throughout the healthcare continuum by:

- Operating the **nation's most comprehensive database** for advance directives and medical orders – the WV e-Directive Registry – with online 24/7 access for health care providers and EMS through West Virginia Health Information Network
- Serving **over 225,000 West Virginians annually** through distributing advance directives and medical orders, responding to phone calls and website inquiries, providing education to health care providers and community members, and maintaining the Registry
- Providing consistent **education and outreach opportunities** at local, state, and national levels including successful Health Care Decisions Day activities with testimonials from notable West Virginians including **Senator Joe Manchin, Dr. Clay Marsh, Dr. Albert Wright, Dr. Patrice Harris, and Delegate Danielle Walker**
- **Improving health care policies** including the recent passage of **SB 470** with amendments to the West Virginia Health Care Decisions Act

The demand for the WV Center for End-of-Life Care and its resources continues to increase as West Virginians are focusing on their health care more with the ongoing pandemic. During 2021 alone, the Center distributed over 108,000 advance directives and medical orders throughout the state as compared to 65,600 in 2019 and an annual average of 63,506 from 2002-2018! The Center has operated with limited finances and only two full-time employees since 2017, but the Center staff remain diligently focused on the needs of the state and make resourceful decisions, such as using volunteers, to ensure the Center's ability to serve West Virginia.

