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# Stephen Moore Comments on Religious Freedom Lawsuits Challenging Medical Aid-in-Dying Laws

In *Law360 Healthcare Authority*

**In The News | 1 min read**
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Hinshaw partner Stephen Moore was recently quoted in a *Law360 Healthcare Authority* article discussing the legal questions presented by lawsuits over state aid-in-dying laws.

On September 12, 2026, the Illinois' End-of-Life Options for Terminally Ill Patients Act (also known as "Deb's Law") took effect, making Illinois the first Midwestern state to authorize medical aid in dying. Earlier this year, the state of New York adopted the Medical Aid in Dying Act.

## Religious Freedom Questions Before the Courts

Several religious freedom lawsuits filed by religious groups are testing whether healthcare providers must answer questions from terminally ill patients about medical aid in dying or refer them to another provider who is willing to provide such care.

These legal questions are now before federal courts in Illinois and New York, where four pending lawsuits challenge the states' recently enacted medical aid-in-dying laws. The suits argue that the law is an "assisted suicide mandate" that forces doctors to forego their religious doctrine to help "kill" patients. They argue that the law violates their First Amendment rights to free speech and free exercise of religion, among others.

## The Pending Lawsuits

In late July, New York Attorney General Letitia James agreed to a temporary restraining order (TRO) pausing enforcement while the lawsuit proceeds. In September, Illinois officials agreed to a TRO that applies specifically to the religious healthcare providers involved in the litigation.

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As these complex cases continue to unfold in Illinois and New York, Stephen explained, “Other providers not involved in the lawsuit can still choose to provide medical aid-in-dying care while the case plays out.” He also noted, “The TRO does not limit the right of a healthcare entity to prohibit doctors from providing aid-in-dying care.”

## Looking Ahead

These challenges to medical aid-in-dying laws continue to draw significant attention nationwide. To learn more about the evolving legal landscape, read our recent commentary below on the topic of medical aid-in-dying laws and their implications.

Healthcare Alert — Oct 27, 2026

### Illinois Medical Aid-in-Dying Law Takes Effect Amid Legal Challenges

In The News — Feb 27, 2026

### Hinshaw Partners Examine Implications for Nursing Homes of New Illinois Aid-in-Dying Law

Healthcare Alert — Feb 13, 2026

### Healthcare Compliance Considerations as New York Adopts Medical Aid-in-Dying Law

**Read the full Law360 article**

- *Law360:* “Courts Weigh Doctors’ Religious Objections To Aid-In-Dying” (November 17, 2026)

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