Testimony for SB0701 Catherine Henderson Salisbury, MD 21801 Position: SUPPORT

I was a volunteer for Hospice, and at age 72 I've sat with friends and relatives in their final stages and have seen first hand the toll it has on the family both emotionally and financially.

I remember vividly my mother in law begging for someone to shoot her. And my mother having blood drawn by several attempts just hours before passing even as they knew it was just a matter of hours.

I have multiple progressive health issues that could be long and lingering. I have been on a feeding tube for over six years and I hate the thought of laying in bed with my family on a death watch.

I am not looking forward to having to move to another state that has Death With Dignity when the time is right or of finding some other alternative that would probably scar my family.

Please let people have the choice to make their own decisions. We don't make animals suffer when all hope is gone.x