

**Testimony Submitted by Ann Harrop, Bethesda, MD on SB701, the End-of-Life Options Act
for the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee Hearing February 28, 2020**

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee,

Thank you for your time today. I live in Bethesda, and have been a resident of Maryland for 10 years. I served my country for almost 40 years as a Foreign Service wife. Now I am almost 92 – physically frail, but with a clear mind. I enjoy playing board games with friends, writing poetry, and playing the many pieces I have memorized on the piano. I rarely leave home for unfamiliar places, so I feel unable to testify in public today, but I urge you to pass the End-of-Life Options Act, SB 701.

I have recently been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and so anticipate a period of intense pain and discomfort in the coming months. Therefore, I would like to be able to count on hospice care to relieve my pain, including the ability to request medication to end my suffering when the time comes. If you do not pass this bill, my only other options are to move to another state or go overseas – both difficult in my current state and possibly too late anyway. I could also starve myself to death, which normally takes about 9 – 11 days, and that would be a miserable way to end my life.

Please consider this and the many others who are facing terrible deaths when you make your decision.

Here is a poem I wrote about my feelings:

SUMMING UP [2019]

It's kind of a strange feeling
just living until I die.
I guess we all are doing so
as the years go passing by.

But when your doctors give you
a specific time frame,
you have a different approach
to the proverbial waiting game.

It's perhaps a year and a half,
but during the final end spell,
what is the quality of life?
Will I still be reasonably well?

No use dwelling on this.
Just hope for a gentle death
when the time comes to surrender
and take that last faint breath.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ann Harrop