

**Testimony in favor of SB 701, the End-Life-Options Act, Submitted by
Ambassador William Harrop (ret), Bethesda MD, 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 consideration of this significant legislation. I am a retired Foreign Service officer, former American ambassador to Kenya, Congo, Guinea and Israel. I lived for five years in Chevy Chase between overseas assignments, and have been a resident of Bethesda the past 12 years.

My younger brother contracted cancer of the liver in his late '60s. Medical experts at Massachusetts General Hospital determined that he had at most a year to live before inescapable death. He suffered crippling pain for the final seven months and begged for release, but his family had no legal alternative but to wait and watch.

Now my wife who is 92 has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Oncology specialists at Johns Hopkins and at Sibley Hospital have told us that the radiation she has undertaken may extend her life up to two years, but that her extreme discomfort in the last five or so months can be only partially alleviated by drugs. She says that she has lived a full, long life and wishes she could peacefully pass on before such extended suffering.

This draft bill includes careful, thorough safeguards against the misapplication of medical assistance in dying. A substantial majority of the citizens of our state support its passage. Please, please act on behalf of your fellow Marylanders.

William C Harrop, 8300 Burdette Road #344, Bethesda MD 2081