



TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE

SB 701 End-of-Life Option Act (Richard E. Israel and Roger "Pip" Moyer Act)

POSITION: Support

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In 2018, the League of Women Voters of Maryland conducted a study on "Death with Dignity". They developed a fact sheet that covered such topics as: how is Death with Dignity defined? Are there other non-violent end of life options? How are attitudes changing in regard to end of life options? What are the views of the medical and legal community on providing this option? What have other states done? What is the history of legislation in Maryland regarding end-of-life options? What are some of the reasons for opposing offering end-of-life options?

All around the state, local Leagues held meetings to discuss the fact sheet and come to consensus on what the League's position on this very emotional topic should be. In advance of these discussions they were provided with additional materials that they could refer to in case they wanted more information on the pros and cons of supporting End of Live Option legislation in Maryland.

These meetings resulted in the following position:

- a. The League of Women Voters of Maryland believes state laws should grant the option for a terminally ill person to request medical assistance from a relevant, licensed physician to end one's life.
- b. The League of Women Voters of Maryland believes such legislation should include safeguards against abuse for the dying and/or medical personnel.

We urge a favorable report on SB 701.