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February 28, 2020

Re: **Testimony in favor of Senate Bill 701**

Dear Maryland Legislators:

As a woman who attends services each week at St. Anne's Episcopal Church here in Annapolis, I am writing to ask that you please pass SB701. For the past several years, I have also testified in favor of this bill.

Benjamin Franklin aptly noted in 1789 that "nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes."

However, given the many technical advances in modern medicine, individuals are often able to be kept alive for long periods of time, and even cured, of their illnesses. This is generally a good thing for which we may be thankful.

What is bad is when individuals certain to die from a terminal illness are forced to be kept alive long past the time in which they can enjoy their last precious moments of life. Indeed, what terrifies me far more than death itself is the idea that I may be trapped in a hospital room, surrounded by non-compassionate, costly machines and unfamiliar caregivers. In such a situation, I would lose all dignity, and suffer more from my surroundings than from my illness.

For one who is sure to die, he or she must have the right to choose how it takes place. I would want a familiar location, surrounded by my loved ones, my pastor, and my family dog.

Marcy's message

One day last summer, I received a beautiful plant with a card stating "so sorry for your loss." Given that I had experienced no recent losses, I was confused as to why this plant came to me, but soon learned it was supposed to be delivered to a different Maryland resident. (I offered to personally deliver it, but my offer was declined.)

This year, I learned that the plant had been intended for a family member of Marcy Rubin (no relation to me). As you may recall, she had adamantly testified in favor of this bill in 2019, which, despite its popularity and many protections, did not pass. Marcy died shortly thereafter. I believe that God is asking me to carry forth with Marcy's message, emphasizing that passage of SB701 is the right course for Maryland to take. Thank you for doing so.

Sincerely yours,



Elisabeth S. Rubin

Attachments



