

February 14, 2024

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee, and
Chair Clippinger and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I would like to make a plea for sound public policy. As you consider the Death with Dignity Act, HB 403, please refer to the recent Oregon Study, “Oregon Death with Dignity Act access: 25-year analysis,” findings that people are increasing ending their lives because they do not want to be a financial burden not due to unbearable pain. The research concludes that “there was an increase in patients feeling a burden and describing financial concerns as reasons for choosing an assisted death.”

What starts out as an option, becomes an expectation. Maryland public policy should prioritize research and development of pain reducing therapies for those with a terminal illness or suffering from painful health conditions over legalizing suicide. Spare these desperately ill people from the additional burden that they will face if physician assisted suicide is legal. Please oppose SB 403.

Sincerely,
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