

House Bill #403

Miner L. Brown

Favorable

Sponsored by

Title: End-of Life Option Act

Testimony

I strongly **favor** the passage of House Bill #403, entitled, "End-of-Life Option Act." This Act does not decide between living and dying, it offers a person the personal opportunity to choose how they die! The time is now!

This should be a personal human right for each us. It has nothing to do with the religious beliefs of a legislator to make this decision for another constituent. It has everything to do with a legislator providing the legal opportunity for a person to choose how they wish to end their life-peacefully and without further suffering. The time is now!

It should be the personal right of each person knowing that they are dying with a terrible illness or disease and suffering constant uncontrollable severe pain to be able to choose a peaceful and dignified end-of -life. You don't protect people by giving them less options, you protect people by giving them more options.

This Act has been modeled after legislation in current authorized jurisdictions and the Oregon Death with Dignity Act which has been in practice for over 25 years without a single instance of abuse or coercion.

As a retired long-term care administrator, I have personally witnessed too many people of all ages needlessly suffer while their family members sat by knowing their loved one did not want to die such an undignified, painful departure.

70% of voters in Maryland support this legislation; 79% of voters with disabilities support this option. It is now time for you- the Maryland legislative leadership- to make it happen.

Thank you.

Miner L. Brown
District 11B

