

**Testimony in Support of HB 403-  
End-Of-Life Option Act (The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings  
and the Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass Act)**

TO: Delegate Joseline Peña-Melnyk, Chair, and  
Members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee and  
Luke Clippinger, Chair and Members of the Judiciary Committee  
FROM: Rev. Dr. Alexa Fraser, Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland  
Medical Aid in Dying Lead Advocate  
DATE: February 16, 2024

I first spoke to you in 2015 to tell you about my father ending his life with a gun as he refused the pain, suffering, and loss of autonomy his advancing Parkinson's was causing.

I would not have chosen this end of life for him, but he spoke through his actions.

Then in 2016, I testified again because I had been diagnosed with cancer.

I'm delighted to say that my cancer is in remission, but I still support this option for those who want it.

Then I testified here in 2019 after I had become a Unitarian Universalist minister.

And most recently I testified to ensure that disabled people receive the right that all of us should have to choose their own story at the end of life.

I follow the dictates of my faith, which treasures bodily autonomy and personal agency. Two of my faith's principles are relevant here. My faith calls on us to utilize the free and responsible personal search for truth; and the right to use conscience and democratic process for decision making. Over 60% of Marylanders support their the principles of MAID. Offering this option is a God given right.

I have worked in hospitals as a chaplain; I have been with people when they were on their deathbeds.

All of them know how to speak for themselves and will be able to do so with the passage of this bill.

Thank you.  
Rev. Alexandra (Alexa) Fraser  
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