

**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: Shari Chilbert
DATE: February 16, 2024

I am writing this during my period of grief—my best friend, my confidant, my cheerleader, the very best person I've ever known—my mom—passed away a few months ago. Losing her is heartbreaking—but watching her suffer through cancer was agonizing in more ways than one can imagine!

My mom was of sound mind, and knew without hesitation that she didn't want to live her life if there was no quality, no independence. Yet, she had no control over her own body's end to life, so therefore, could not choose to die with dignity. She wanted to leave this world on her own terms. Yet, she was not legally allowed to make her own decisions regarding her own body. This does not make sense- why should her life choices be in the hands of others who cannot carry out her wishes?

This bill is important as it will help protect a person's right over his/her body. I wish my mom was with me but I also wish she had total rights over her decision to end her life.

Please support the End of Life Option Act for Maryland. Please support HB 403.

Thank you,
Shari Chilbert
Montgomery County