

**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: Reverend Diane Teichert, Minister Emerita

DATE: February 16, 2024

I am Reverend Diane Teichert, a Minister Emerita in Prince George's County. I am a stroke survivor with hemiplegia and therefore use a mobility scooter. So, I appreciate this chance, via video, to testify before you, as able-bodied people do.

As a person with disabilities, I ask you to support HB 403. The medical aid-in-dying and disability rights movements share important core values, high among them: self-determination.

It is clear to me that the provisions spelled out in this bill carefully protect against the possibility that my death, or that of anyone with disabilities, could be hastened by those who deem our lives not worth living. If that's your concern about this bill, please read it again.

I also come before you today as the daughter-in-law of a Baltimore man who died last spring at the age of 104. Had Maryland passed its End of Life Option Act in 2023, his anxiety about a painful death from heart failure would not have been so acute.

Please support HB 403, and give terminally ill Marylanders of sound mind the right to choose a medically-assisted death.

Thank-you.

*Reverend Diane Teichert*