

Testimony of Support for SB0701
The End-of-Life Option Act (The Richard E. Israel and Roger "Pip" Moyer Act)
By Debra Cirasole at 703 Blackhorse Trail, Severn, MD 21144
State Senator (District 33): Edward R. Reilly

My name is Debi Cirasole, I live in Severn, Maryland and I strongly support this bill.

I was given a terminal brain cancer diagnosis at the age of 31. I am now 38. When most people hear this their first reaction is usually something like, "see, doctors aren't always right!" However, there is quite a difference between "terminal" and "end stage"; brain cancer is an incurable, progressive disease resulting in death, but it isn't until that death is imminent that you are considered end-stage. And that is when I would meet the most important eligibility requirement for aid in dying. In my mind, there is no mistaking death's signs once its upon your doorstep.

The location of my cancer directly affects my very person, has already caused me great pain and trauma, and cost me my mobility. I am chronically disabled. Yet I persist and will continue to do so, until what is projected to be a terrible end, mostly for me but also for my loved ones.

Under this proposal, I (and others like me), will be granted the dignity of a peaceful passing under my own control, as much as can be afforded under the circumstances. I imagine a much softer, comforting release at home surrounded by my loved ones.

One last very important point. I understand that some who are chronically disabled like me and some individuals of faith oppose this bill. I respect their right to not choose aid in dying for themselves. But they should **not** have the right to stop me from pursuing what I know is best for me. This should be between my doctor and me. Being granted this right to die with comfort is a compassion that I and others deserve.