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To the Honorable Legislators of the Great State of Maryland:

I humbly request you NOT pass SB 701. As a Christian Ethics Instructor, I and those I teach believe in the sacredness of life.

I dare say most of you would argue that capital punishment is barbaric and inhumane. In 2013 we struck down capital punishment in Maryland, becoming the 18th state to do so. Here we are in 2020 among 18 states poised to approve physician assistant suicide under the guise of compassionate choice, and safeguards that will be discarded before the ink is dry from the Governor's pen. A primary argument for the elimination of Capital Punishment is the racist and disparate outcome for people of color, and those economically disenfranchised. How is this any different? We struck down capital punishment, and we now want to approve Physician-Assisted Suicide, which will quickly become Euthanasia. Like Capital Punishment, this will ultimately have a disparate effect on *my* community.

Make no mistake SB 701 is written to allow for wide interpretation on purpose, so that in the future, waiting periods can be deleted, the definition of chronic pain can extend to such things as diabetes and depression, and "may self-

administer," will come to mean let the doctor inject me like we use to strap prisoners to gurneys and administer lethal drugs to end their life. How is Physician-Assisted Suicide any different in its real consequences?

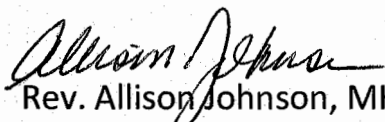
In 2016, my mother spent 17 days in hospice care. Her treatment was dignified and respectful, and that worthy of a woman who loved her God, six children, and community. I may not be able to say the same for my father-in-law, who is currently in an assisted living situation in the state of California.

As an Associate Pastor and Ethics Instructor, I know:

1. **All human beings are created in God's image**, Genesis 1:26-27
2. **All human life is sacred**, Genesis 9:3-6
3. **All human life has intrinsic value regardless of life stage or condition**

Please do not pass or table this bill; **throw it out**. Stand against racism and for the least among us.

Thank you,



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