

Senate Bill 701

Testimony by Kristine M. Lev

Address: 4814 Broom Drive in Olney, MD 20832

Position: Support

Good afternoon, Chair Smith, members of the Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee,

My name is Kristine M. Lev. I live at 4814 Broom Drive in Olney, MD 20832.

My brother, Dean Murphy, had ALS from early 2013 until he passed away on October 1, 2017. At the time of his death, he was on a ventilator, had a feeding tube, could not speak and could not move one muscle in his body, not even his eyes.

He could not tell anyone when he had a pain or even an itch or if there was phlegm building up in the back of his throat, as it often did. He could not tell anyone when his ventilator settings were not ideal and he was not getting enough air. He suffered tremendously every day and I wish to God that he had had the option to die with dignity.

ALS is an insidious terminal illness. People with this and other terminal illnesses should have the right to not suffer at the end of their lives. Why should our loved ones have to suffer more than our pets at the end of their lives? Before Dean lost the ability to speak, he should have been able to decide and say if he wanted to die with dignity.

As Dean had the familial form of ALS, I could one day face this unspeakable disease as well.

I fully support SB0701, the End-of-Life Options Act, and I am asking the Committee to pass the bill.

The End-of-Life Options Act provides personal choice at the end of life and peace of mind for those who are dying of terminal illness.

Again, I support SB0701, the End-of-Life Options Act, and I am asking the Committee to vote Yes.

Thank you again for your time and for the opportunity to present testimony to you.