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ALAN D. EASON  
CHAIRPERSON

**STATE OF MARYLAND**  
**ADVISORY COUNCIL ON QUALITY CARE AT THE END OF LIFE**

March 9, 2022

Delores E. Kelley, Chair  
Senate Finance Committee  
3 East Wing  
Miller Senate Office Bldg.  
11 Bladen St.  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Senate Bill 824-Health - Accessibility of Electronic Advance Care Planning Documents – Support

Dear Chair Kelley,

The State Advisory Council on Quality Care at the End of Life supports Senate Bill 824, which would encourage more people to prepare advance care planning documents and would make those documents more readily accessible to health care providers.

In December 2020, the Council issued a report at the request of the General Assembly, in which the Council recommended ways to increase the use of advance care planning documents and to make them more readily accessible to health care providers. In the 2021 legislative session, Senator Ben Kramer introduced Senate Bill 837, which passed in the Senate, and which had been supported by the Council. The House Health and Government Operations Committee then requested that the Maryland Health Care Commission convene a workgroup to study the issue and make recommendations. This workgroup met, issued the requested report, and Senator Kramer consequently introduced SB 824 and Delegate Bonnie Cullison introduced the cross-filed HB 1073.

The Council continues to support legislation to increase the use of advance care planning documents and to make them more readily accessible to health care providers in a timely manner. The Council believes that SB 824 would significantly help Maryland to accomplish these goals and thereby ensure that many more Marylanders' treatment wishes are honored.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alan D. Eason".

Alan Eason  
Chair

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**ALL CORRESPONDENCE AND INQUIRIES TO:**  
Paul J. Ballard, Counsel, Health Decisions Policy  
300 West Preston Street ♦ Baltimore, Maryland 21201  
Telephone: 410-767-6918 ♦ TTY For Disabled (Maryland Relay Service) 800-735-2258 ♦ 877-4MD-DHMH

cc: The Honorable Ben Kramer  
The Honorable Bonnie Cullison  
Members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee

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