

TERRY LIERMAN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE
MARYLAND END-OF-LIFE OPTION ACT (SB 845)
(The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings and the Honorable
Shane E. Pendergrass Act, SB 845/HB 933)
Joint Committee on Health and Government Operations
March 7, 2023, 1pm

Passing this medical aid-in-dying law is good public policy.

Polls indicate that most Marylanders are in support, Gov. Wes Moore, Lt. Gov. Aruna Miller and Comptroller Brooke Lierman are supportive.

Since the first medical aid-in-dying law took effect in Oregon in 1997, there have been no reports of misuse of this end-of-life care option.

We have been debating this bill in Maryland for eight long years.

The time is now to pass the End-of-Life Option Act.

My advocacy began when my beloved wife Caroline suffered unnecessarily from cancer at the end of her life.

I married Caroline, the love of my life, on May 17, 2019 and I lost her on Nov. 23, 2019, to five different cancers: liver, lung, bone, spine and colon.

We were told of her diagnosis only 3 weeks before we married.

I spent the majority of our marriage watching my wife Caroline suffer in pain and begging me to let her die.

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We spent the last 3 months of her life in the hospital and hospice.

Her pain level was high even though she received copious amounts of painkillers.

You can imagine how upset I was that the hospital was unable to manage her pain.

The doctors told us she would die in a matter of months, but because this law was not passed so there was nothing they could do to stop her suffering.

She went into hospice and they treated her with palliative sedation which helped her pain some.

But, it took her two weeks to die and she chose voluntary stopping of eating and drinking, which basically amounted to her starving to death.

No one should have to endure what she endured, what we endured with her.

If we have the means to end unnecessary suffering why shouldn't we do it?

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I promised Caroline before she died that I would do what I could to make sure no one else suffered at the end of life like she did.

An individual has every right to follow their own conscience and religious beliefs but they don't have the right to impose their beliefs on others.

I want to thank all the legislators who voted to pass this bill in the past and encourage others to do the right thing and support this bill.

It means everything to the people and their families who are suffering as we speak.

The time is NOW to pass this bill!

Thank you.

(Word count: 405)