March 8, 2023

Members of the Heath and Government Operations Committee,

I write as a Maryland Resident of Baltimore City, a place I have been privileged to call home for the past 15 years. As a homeowner, voter, taxpayer, and human being in the State of Maryland, I want to express my total support for HB0933, the End-of-Life Options Act (The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings and the Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass Act).

The End-of-Life Options Act would allow mentally competent, terminally ill people with a diagnosis of six months or less to live an option to be in charge of their end-of-life journey when a disease or illness has taken the option to be in charge of the rest of their <u>life</u> away from them.

Medical aid in dying, which would be afforded as an option to qualifying Marylanders through the Act, is one of several legal options that someone might choose at the end of life, and the majority of people in other states and Washington, D.C. who get the prescription choose not to ingest it. However, in all of the other places in this country where the option is legalized, dying people report a feeling of comfort and control even knowing that they could access the law if necessary, whether they choose to obtain the medication and ingest it or not.

As a woman who, like millions of others, is already denied full medical autonomy in many states in this country, I urge you to vote in support of autonomy at the end-of-life and to pass the End-of-Life Options act.

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