

**Testimony of Gary Norman, Esq. L.L.M.**  
**Regarding SB0845/HB0933 -- The End-of-Life Option Act**  
**(The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings and the Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass Act)**  
**March 10, 2023**

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members All:

I am Gary C. Norman, a healthcare attorney and civil rights leader. I strongly support this bill.

In the first, all people should enjoy autonomy as to their bodies and should be empowered to render their own intimate, important, decisions. I have been a vocal spokesperson for improving equity in healthcare, including, at the end-of-life. Choice is a fundamental part of improving our healthcare system to better serve all of America. Contrary to the opposition, I view this bill as enhancing choice, not derogating choice by all people, especially those with a disability or identify as such.

In the second, this bill provides protections or safeguards. This bill equally provides safeguards to patients and to healthcare providers. I would not support any bill I deemed to pose risk to people with disabilities. I note that palliative sedation already exists – most often with no dystopian concerns by the opposition. Moreover, I am concerned that sometimes these conversations devolve as bias against physicians as to how the healthcare system “is out to harm the disabled.”

In the third, I hold concern that, if any risk exists, it is pretending that all people with disabilities (or any minority population) have to think the same on important public policy questions. I do not pretend to speak for all disabled people but know that critical thinking led me to support this bill.

In closing, I look forward to being of any assistance to the committee that it may require in favorably voting this bill. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary C. Norman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.