

Delegate Pena-Melnyk

RE: HB0933

I am extremely concerned about HB0933, End-Of-Life-Act (Honorable Elijah E. Cummings and Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass Act). I am the mother of my severely disabled adult daughter. She requires assistance with all aspects of her care. I worry that this law will deprive her of the care she needs to live a long life. Her care can be expensive. She is 31, but functions between a six month old and a five year old. She just received her diagnosis last year. She has a very rare gene mutation, HNRNPH2. She is one of approximately 150 people in the entire world and the only person identified in Maryland so far. She will say yes to most questions asked and if the question is intonated as fun, I can see her saying yes to someone asking her if she would like to go to sleep or die today. She has guardianship, but some family members might get tired of caregiving or want their inheritance when the person dies. I see it as a way for government to save money. People get a certain age and need more help from the government or more people qualify for Social Security, etc. Look what happened with Covid. Letters from the government had to be sent out to hospitals, nursing homes, etc. that the disabled population must be treated as anyone else and guardians/representatives were to be allowed in hospital rooms. I can only imagine what would have happened if this law was in effect then. I'm concerned this bill will be a way to control the population.

I am saying this bill is **UNFAVORABLE**. I don't see how government is going to create a bill that is iron clad and will be able to protect all citizens in all scenarios/situations, disabled or not.

Thank you for your time.