

Dear Delegates,

I ask you to remember that law affects behavior indirectly. Others observe a new legal behavior, perceive its feasibility and absorb it as their own. Suicide accepted as a “compassionate choice” in one cross-section of the population will bleed into others. Over time, the legal rule becomes a behavioral norm influencing all cross-sections, medical and mental conditions, ages, as well as health and life insurance policies, medical practices, acceptable and “non- judgmental” options for care, families, schools, etc. The ripple is a tsunami and will have unattended, unimagined consequences.

I attend church and work on Wilkens Ave in the City of Baltimore. Senator Antonio Hayes is our senator, District 40. We serve a population that is often invisible to the upper echelons of Marylanders, but are people who for whatever reason, are dependent on society. I don't care how many “safeguards” you put in this bill, this population will not be safe from this allegedly compassionate, inexpensive, state sanctioned and probably recommended in many cases, option of care. The wherewithal of the Honorable Cummings and Pendergrass are not the lens to examine this question.

The legal rule becomes a behavioral norm influencing everyone. Please vote against this precedent in Maryland.

Kathleen Basil
Arnold, MD, District 33

