

**Testimony in Support of HB 933  
End-Of-Life Option Act (The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings  
and the Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass Act)**

TO: Delegate Joseline Peña-Melnyk, Chair, Luke Clippinger, Chair and members of  
the House Health and Government Operations and Judiciary Committees  
FROM: Reverend Diane Teichert,  
DATE: March 10, 2023

With a 104 year old family member in mind and heart, I write in support of this bill.

A resident of Maryland, he has long desired to die in peace, without pain, and at a time and in a manner of his choosing. The pills he somehow acquired and stashed away for that purpose decades ago have no doubt expired and are not likely to meet his objectives if he took them. It should not be illegal for a licensed medical doctor, who happens to be a member of his family, to advise him about these matters. There should be no fear of risk for his primary care physician to discuss his wishes with him, prescribe appropriately, coach him on tapering his life-prolonging meds when he feels the time has come and recommend him for hospice care in a timely manner.

Maryland is known as The Free State. Passing this bill is about ensuring bodily autonomy for him and other beloved elders at the end of their lives.

Sincerely,  
Rev. Diane Teichert  
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