



USM SUPPORTS SB 845 & HB 933

End-of Life Option Act (The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings and the Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass Act)

KEY POINT: **United Seniors of Maryland**, through its coalition member groups & individuals, **represents 2.5 million seniors in our state**. We are a non-partisan, non-profit over 48 years of senior advocacy. We are the **fastest growing population in our state**, from rural Allegheny County & the Shores to the urban areas of Montgomery and Prince Georges counties. USM is the voice of seniors in Maryland.

KEY POINT: **United Seniors of Maryland endorses the End-of-Life Options Act.**

1. It is good legislation.
2. It has many checks and balances.
3. It provides access to an end-of-life care option that many of our members want.
4. It facilitates open and transparent dialogue between patient and doctor.
5. It provides the right to access care, when requested.
6. Marylanders should have the health care right that residents of Washington DC and 13 other states enjoy.

KEY POINT: USM is **UNANIMOUS** in supporting the bill.

1. **USM FULLY AGREES Maryland needs an End-of-Life Option that is regulated and provides access to our care options.**
2. USM believes this is a right to care bill.

KEY POINT: Our USM Legislative Committee has carefully reviewed the bill.

1. We have endorsed the bill since 2015;
2. Eight years later- **We still want the right to access our care options.**

Conclusion:

As the President of United Seniors of Maryland, I am here on the behalf of 2.5 million seniors and the behalf of myself as a CEO of a Health Care Provider for Community Based Home Care Services that cares for end-of-life clients for over 66 years, all over the State of Maryland.

I too am a Maryland resident, and my career has been serving our state's aging and disabilities population as one of the first State Disabilities Commissioners under Governor Ehrlich. It is always my goal to make sure they have

access to the best possible care, and are **empowered to make healthcare decisions that match their own values and priorities**. Thank you for your favorable support of SB 845 & HB 933..