

House Bill 0933: End of Life Option  
OPPOSE

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Position: OPPOSE

As a Maryland resident, I am speaking out in opposition to this death bill. I have a great concern for life, its value, and the danger of interfering with the end of life and denying individuals the opportunity to truly end their lives with dignity.

Toward the end of August 2023, my mother became hospitalized in critical condition due to an undiagnosed kidney stone which had caused an infection that was now spreading throughout her body. After seven days in Intensive Care, her medical team advised her of two options for continued treatment: continue to treat the infection, followed by an operation to remove the kidney stone, followed by months of rehabilitation OR transition to hospice care, making her comfortable in the last days of her life. Valuing her independence – she was 103 and still living independently in her own apartment in a senior adult community – my mother was concerned about whether she would be able to walk again and go back to her apartment. Realizing her lifestyle would change, she opted for hospice care – a decision my brother and I had her confirm three different times in consultation with her medical team. I know had she been given a third option to administer drugs to end her life right then that is the choice she would have made.

What's wrong with that, you may be wondering? She was 103. She'd lived a long life. Let her go in peace. That's just it. She would NOT have died in peace. She would have died believing that she was unloved and unwanted.

My mother grew up during the depression and was of a generation which kept a lot of feelings and emotions bottled up inside only to erupt in anger from time to time. Expressing love was not always easy and my relationship with my mother as an adult was complicated. There were many hurts that we each carried, which impacted the quality of our relationship for decades! In those few remaining weeks of her life, we had many heart-to-heart conversations. It was a time of critical healing for each of us. I heard my mother tell me for the first time in my life that she loved me. I was able to provide the comfort and care that she needed as her life came to an end, enabling her to experience a loving mother-daughter relationship that she so desperately wanted.

Was it difficult spending long days with her as her life slipped away? YES! However, she died knowing she was loved and that her life mattered. I urge you not to pass a bill that would interfere with the natural end of life and deny people – the dying and the living - the opportunity for reconciliation in those final days.