
To: Members of Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

From: Michael and Joanne Davis

Date: March 7, 2023

Subject: SB-845: End-of-Life Options Act (The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings and Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass Act).

Position: **Strong Support**

We are writing to express our **STRONG SUPPORT** for Senate Bill 845: End-of-Life Options Act (The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings and Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass Act).

Over the next few weeks, you will be hearing many arguments both in favor of and opposing the basic tenants of the End-of-Life Options Act. As you listen to and review these arguments, please keep in mind that this bill bolsters the liberty, dignity and freedom of Maryland citizens. Indeed, the right to make life and death decisions about one's own body has been and is now considered a fundamental civil right by most Marylanders.

The citizens of each of the following states and DC have what we in Maryland do not have - the right to get some assistance to escape a painful end-of-life while maintaining their dignity.

STATE	<u>YEAR PASSED</u>	<u>POPULATION (2023)</u>
California	2015	40,200,000
Colorado	2016	6,000,000
District of Columbia	2017	700,000
Hawaii	2018	1,500,000
Maine	2019	1,400,000
Montana	2009	1,100,000
New Jersey	2019	9,500,000
New Mexico	2021	2,100,000
Oregon	1997	4,400,000
Vermont	2013	650,000
Washington	<u>2008</u>	<u>8,000,000</u>
Total	11	77,650,000

The processes and procedures for implementing an End-of-Life Option have been tried and tested in the U.S. for over 25 years. The predictions of the naysayers have not

been realized. Instead, 77,650,000 of their citizens were given something we don't have in Maryland - peace of mind.

Citizen support for the End-of-Life Options Act can be seen in the poll that Compassion & Choices recently completed.¹ In that poll, 71% of all Maryland voters support enactment of the End-of-Life Options Act. This poll further found, among other things, that 75% of Democrats, 66% of Republicans, 67%, of Independents and 58% of Catholics supported the End-of-Life Options Act.

Please, vote in favor of the End-of-Life Options Act and pass it out of Committee so that this bill can finally be considered by the entire Senate.

Thank you so much for your consideration.

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¹ See, <https://compassionandchoices.org/news/new-md-poll-shows-pro-choice-pro-life-voters-support-medical-in-dying-record-support-statewide>. See, also, the poll done in 2019 by Goucher College reflecting 62% support for the End-of-Options Act. <https://www.goucher.edu/hughes-center/documents/Goucher-Poll-Feb19-part1.pdf> This increase in support, from 62% to 71%, is significant.