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Support SB0845

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

Hello. I'm Lynn Cave. When I first heard of Medical Aid in Dying as an option years ago, when I was a healthy 20 something—I thought why should people who were facing imminent death have to suffer for any prolonged time. I was all for it. It made perfect sense.

Now I'm a 60-something in poor health. And having the option of Medical Aid in Dying could play a pivotal role as I face my own death.

Here's my story. I worked at the National Institutes of Health for 38 years, mainly in public affairs where I wrote press releases and pamphlets and ran public education campaigns. I also spent a few years in the part of the Cancer Institute that ran cancer clinical trials.

Ironically, I'm now in a clinical trial to try to stabilize my metastatic eye cancer. My cancer has spread to my liver, it will never be cured, and I probably only have about two years to live. Once my cancer has destroyed my liver, most likely I will have about 2 weeks before my whole body shuts down, and I pass away. Would you want to wait two weeks knowing you're going to die? I don't want to perpetuate my own suffering for two long weeks, nor do I want my family to endure the agony caused by a prolonged period of watching me die.

Believe me, I'm doing everything I can to live. I make the two and a quarter hour trip to and from Philadelphia for my treatment, because a world renowned team there works to tame this cancer. And, If this clinical trial stops working, I know of at least two others that I can attempt. But, once I've been through everything my doctors know to try, I don't want to extend my life if it gets to the point that I will suffer and die, no matter what my doctors do. I hope you can make Medical Aid in Dying an option for me.

So I plead with you to follow the will of the Governor and the people of Maryland, over 65% of whom support medical Aid in Dying, to make this choice a reality for Marylanders now. So they—so YOU—so I—don't have to suffer needlessly when a prolonged death is what we face. Thank you.