

Please oppose SB845/HB933 Assisted Suicide.

Assisted Suicide legislation puts Maryland's most vulnerable populations at risk-including individuals with disabilities, minorities, those experiencing poverty, individuals being treated for or have a history of mental illness, our veterans, and those suffering from prescription or other drug addictions.

Lawmakers nationwide reject Assisted Suicide. The Maryland General Assembly has rejected some form of this bill at least five times. Your peers made their legislative intent very clear that Assisted Suicide is a criminal act and should remain so.

- Maryland's leading disability rights groups recognize the many dangers the bill poses to those with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- There is no standard requirement that each patient receives mental health screening and counseling.
- No family notification is required.
- One in three patients who fill the lethal prescription-typically 100 pills, decide against taking it. There are no safeguards to ensure the unused drugs stay out of the hands of children and prescription drug dealers. This is particularly irresponsible, as we are experiencing an opioid crisis nationwide.
- No doctor or nurse is required to be present when the patient ingests the lethal dose. If something goes wrong, any physical or emotional complications must be handled solely by the patient and those witnessing the death.
- Assisted Suicide laws make suicide socially acceptable. States which have legalized Assisted Suicide have experienced increased suicide rates.
- Taxpayers foot the bill to pay for the lethal drugs and doctor visits.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask that you protect Maryland's most vulnerable citizens. Please oppose legislation to legalize SB845/HB933 Assisted Suicide.