

March 7, 2023

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RE: SUPPORT SB 845 End-of-Life Option Act (The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings and the Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass Act) -SUPPORT

Dear Chairman William C. Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 845 End-of-Life Option Act –The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings and the Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass Act. I am asking for your support as well and requesting you vote to pass this important piece of legislation out of your committee.

I have a keen and in-depth understanding of what terminally and seriously ill persons go through to attempt to maintain some semblance of quality of life as their disease progresses and they move closer to death. I have over 25 years of experience as an aging policy and health care professional working with the elderly, disabled adults and terminally ill persons both in direct care settings and in the Maryland and National policy and legislative arenas, as well as in U.S. Army caring for patients who were in the process of dying at Walter Reed's Army Oncology and Hematology units.

Often times, even in 2023, people are still dying in pain. Pain medication does not work for all, and even when it can assist with the pain levels of some of the more serious types of, for example, Parkinson's disease, it is either not enough or the medication just hastens their death and offers very little quality of life during their precious remaining years.

SB 845 provides an end-of-life option that many older adults and seriously ill adults need. Please support this bill, keeping in mind it is a choice, an option, for those who desire to maintain their bodily autonomy. Marylanders should have the health care right that residents of Washington DC and 13 other states enjoy.

Thank you for your consideration,

Donna DeLeno Neuworth

