

**Testimony in Support of SB 845 -  
End-Of-Life Option Act  
(The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings and the  
Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass Act)**

TO: Senator Will Smith, Jr, Chair and members of the Judicial Proceedings  
Committee  
FROM: Reverend Diane Teichert,  
DATE: March 7, 2023

With a 104 year old family member in mind and heart, I write in support of this bill.

A resident of Maryland, he has long desired to die in peace, without pain, and at a time and in a manner of his choosing. The pills he somehow acquired and stashed away for that purpose decades ago have no doubt expired and are not likely to meet his objectives if he took them. It should not be illegal for a licensed medical doctor, who happens to be a member of his family, to advise him about these matters. There should be no fear of risk for his primary care physician to discuss his wishes with him, prescribe appropriately, coach him on tapering his life-prolonging meds when he feels the time has come and recommend him for hospice care in a timely manner.

Maryland is known as The Free State. Passing this bill is about ensuring bodily autonomy for him and other beloved elders at the end of their lives.

Sincerely,  
Rev. Diane Teichert  
4321 Van Buren Street  
University Park, MD 20782