

SB.845 - Opposition

I cannot believe this bill is being introduced again in Maryland. There are so many patient safety issues at stake. There are no protections for the patient against coercion by others, no protections against neglect in treating and diagnosing depression, and no protection against inaccurate diagnoses of terminal illnesses. The patient is in a weakened and debilitated state and should never be pressured internally or externally to end their life. It is at this point that hospice and palliative care are so important and can provide a loving and comfortable environment for patients to live their remaining days maximizing each moment with family and friends to die naturally and peacefully.

As a physician, it is my job to protect my patient. I was never taught to kill anyone in medical school. Asking a physician to assist in suicide is like asking the bus driver to run over the school children he was entrusted to protect. Life itself is so fragile, and tragically as we know from all the gun violence there are other ways to end a life besides involving a doctor- the one person whose job it is to ensure patient protection and physical well-being. I am adamantly opposed to this bill.

Janet D Conway MD
Division Head, Bone and Joint Infection
Rubin institute for Advanced Orthopaedics
Sinai Hospital of Baltimore
2401 W Belvedere Avenue ,2nd floor
Baltimore, MD 21215
Office: 4106011726
Cell: 4434657185