

**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: Rebecca Forte, Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

DATE: March 7, 2023

This bill is important to me personally as a granddaughter, and as a human being. It seeks to protect my autonomous rights over my body as well as those of my grandmother over hers. I mention my grandmother because she is someone who is grappling with these personal decisions now. The last time this bill was introduced was THREE years ago. Honestly, in her lifespan as a Holocaust refugee, I fear that she may not have three years to wait.

As someone who has researched this topic, I can tell you that the nearest place to have passed the End of Life Option Act is Washington, DC. However, Washington, DC—and most states with this provision—will only provide end of life options for residents of their state. This means that for current Marylanders the nearest place where they would have to travel to for end of life autonomy is Oregon.

At the Estate Planning law firm where I work, we regularly discuss with people their personal choices for end of life options. Unfortunately, that also means that we regularly have to discuss with people how in Maryland their preferred end of life choices have no legal weight or bearing. This bill aims to rectify that situation and provide legislative backing for them when they make these personal decisions.

Please support SB 845, the End of Life Option Act for Maryland.

Thank you,

*Rebecca Forte*

District 33

Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

