Oppose SB0443/HB0403 End-of-Life-Options Act

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This law will change a moral question into a therapeutic one; and if you pass it, you will be responsible for the death of people who don't really want to die.

They just haven't understood—as many of the disabled and underserved members of our society have long experienced—that meaningful lives don't require vacations, a driver's license, a job, or even a pain-free body.

We can see this happening in Oregon from the "Oregon Death with Dignity Act 2022 Data Summary." Since 1998, the reasons by far most cited by those requesting lethal prescriptions are "less able to engage in activities making life enjoyable (90%), losing autonomy (90.3%), and loss of dignity (71.7%). Every year the number of people accessing lethal prescriptions is rising.

According to Maryland Matters,

> In D.C., where 45% of the population is Black, 22 of 24 patients who have utilized the option are white. the CNS analysis found. One patient was Black, while another was Hispanic.
> Similar trends have appeared in other states that have legalized aid in dying. In California, among most racially diverse jurisdictions with an aid-in-dying law, 0.8% of patients have been Black.
> As Maryland considers medical aid in dying, here's how it's playing out in D.C. | News | times-news.com

While some think this disparity is a question of access to medical care, I think it's a statement of the religious faith of minorities.

The reasons people request aid in dying (as recorded in Oregon) are concerns almost everyone has as they come closer to death. Instituting medical aid in dying as a policy reduces opportunities for family and friends to find meaning in their lives. This is a religious question, a moral one—not a therapeutic one.

My mother has trigeminal neuralgia, called "the suicide disease" because of the agonizing unpredictable pain it causes. Although 86, she has always been active--caring for her home, large extended family, garden, orchard and farm animals. The powerful drugs used to dull the pain caused side effects so debilitating that she sat in front of the TV all day. She was too shaky and dizzy to walk or bathe herself, too confused to cook or even crochet. This tragedy in her life has brought many loving acts and conversations in our family that have given her—and us—an increased understanding of the meaning of our lives.