FROM THE DESK OF DAN COX

Candidate for U.S. House of Representatives (MD-6) '24; Maryland State Delegate, 2019-2023

7 February 2024

Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Chairman Judicial Proceedings Committee 11 Bladen Street Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Oppose Big Corporate Killing of Vulnerable Marylanders – UNFAVORABLE - SB 443

Honorable Chairman Smith and members of the Committee:

Greetings former colleagues and friends and thank you for your service to our State. Martin Luther King, Jr. uplifted America when he said, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." Defending the vulnerable is our important duty to humanity.

I am asking you to report unfavorable SB 443 – Assisted Suicide (End of Life Option Act). At no point in world history has state-sanctioned support for killing innocent and vulnerable people resulted in peace and happiness for those who do such evil. Instead, it incurs the wrath of God.

Assisted Suicide is deadly to civilization, and must be opposed at least because of the following:

- Legalizing Assisted Suicide enables powerful health insurance and medical providers to deny life sustaining care to patients and evade liability for the death of patients. **This preys upon the poor and vulnerable.** The poor as well as those with disabilities would be faced with choosing suicide as an option so as not to become a burden on their loved ones. To the most vulnerable, a right to die may become a responsibility to die.
- No family notification is required. This is in direct contradiction with Estate Law.
- One in three patients who fill the lethal prescription-typically 100 pills, decide against taking it. There are no safeguards to protect children.
- No doctor or nurse is required to be present when the patient ingests the lethal dose. If something goes wrong, any physical or emotional complications must be handled solely by the patient and those witnessing the death. This is especially dangerous since without licensed third-party witnesses, there would be no verification of the patient's wishes opening the door for murder without ability to prove otherwise.
- Taxpayers foot the bill to pay for the lethal drugs and doctor visits.

In the name of God and everything good I appeal to you to vote UNFAVORABLE on SB 443.

Respectfully submitted,

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