

February 7, 2024

To the Members of Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee:

This is my written testimony opposing the Senate Physician Assisted Suicide Bill SB443

Again, this drive to give hurting people not health care but the ultimate health neglect has reared its ugly head.

I have been a friend and caretaker of handicapped and elderly people who will be the primary targets of such legislation. I have worked as a volunteer with the Missionaries of Charity for fourteen years and helped them take care of poor and sick people who needed long term care. I have witnessed firsthand the value that these people have as they teach us the very important lesson in a highest of human attributes- giving care as a primary end! I have witnessed the joy that can come from faces who despite struggles and even pain know that they are loved by God and are of infinite value. What drives people to despair is not pain and handicap but being unwanted.

For this year's testimony consider two references I present these references: A study from 2020 where they found the majority of physicians are biased by the assumption that the disabled have less quality of life than abled people: "Physicians' Perceptions Of People With Disability And Their Health Care" by Lisa I. Iezzoni, MD, MSc¹ et al in *Health Affairs (Millwood)* 2021

And an article from the Rehumanize Webpage, documenting the abuses that disabled and sick Canadians have been subjected to since the legalization of physician assisted suicide. Large entities such as hospital systems and insurance companies inevitably push for the cheapest not the best. <https://www.rehumanizeintl.org/post/canada-s-medical-assistance-in-dying-program-is-ableist-classist-and-coercive>

I urge you to vote "no" on SB443. Shut this down once for all, Lets find a better way to help the suffering.

Sincerely

Vickie Hoffmann
Kensington, Maryland