

**Testimony of Dr. Edna Hirsch -- Favorable  
Regarding SB0443/HB0403 -- The End-of-Life Option Act  
(The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings and the Honorable  
Shane E. Pendergrass Act)  
February 2024**

My name is Dr Edna Hirsch and I support this bill.

I am a 2X Breast Cancer survivor. My husband has 4th-stage glioblastoma.

Every year this Bill has not been enacted means people have been forced to endure unnecessary suffering. I do not believe God wants us to suffer, not my God. If that were the case, then one should not take any medicine for any illness.

Two skilled physicians make a recommendation based on sound medical knowledge that further life would only be painful and full of unnecessary suffering, and there is no more that medicine can provide. Praying will not remove their suffering. To prolong the inevitable under those circumstances is like torturing someone. Hospice is available but often is a long, drawn-out process with weeks or months on a morphine drip that shuts the body down. The person drowns in their body fluids. It is not humane to leave people with only the option to starve themselves, put a gun to their head, or suffer needlessly. If people do not want to take advantage of this option, they do not need to. But for those who want this option, it should be available.

It is not that hope has run out, it is that hope for a better end of life is their only hope.