

February 8, 2024

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

SB 443

Physician Assisted Suicide

Unfavorable report

I am asking the committee to provide an unfavorable report on SB 0443 for the following reasons.

First:

I am a 78-year-old, life-long resident of the state of Maryland. I have lived in the same house in Waldorf for 51 years. As an advocate for the elderly and disabled, I have opposed similar bills for about 9 years now.

I served as an Army Ranger in the jungles of Vietnam and drank green water out of bomb craters. I was diagnosed with Agent Orange related prostate cancer 5 years ago (I underwent treatment 4 years ago and am cancer free at this time). Three and one-half years ago a drunk driver crashed his car into me and I spent 7 weeks in the Prince George's shock trauma unit and 7 weeks in inpatient therapy and became disabled.

I fear that if SB 443 becomes law, private insurance companies might find it more cost effective to deny medical treatment and instead prescribe suicide pills. If this bill becomes law, I may find it necessary to move out of Maryland to receive necessary medical treatment.

Nine years ago, I was advocating for others. Now as I have become elderly and disabled, this bill pertains to me.

Second:

Veteran suicide has reached a crisis level in both America and Maryland. Governor Moore is supporting (and funding) initiatives to eliminate veteran suicides. I find it ironic that Maryland Legislature is trying to make physician assisted suicide acceptable to Maryland residents, while the Executive branch is spending taxpayer dollars to reduce suicide. Maybe SB 443 should be amended to exclude veterans.

Thank you,

Sidney O. Marcus III

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