

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

Hello. My name is Stan Bliden, and I am here in support of this bill. I am a lifelong resident of Maryland and currently reside in Harford County.

As Kenny Rogers sings in The Gambler. "The best that that you can hope for is to die in your sleep."

I come before you today to ask you to pass a bill that will allow me to do just that. I have an incurable brain cancer called Glioblastoma for which the 5-year survival rate is 7 in a hundred. I am about to complete year one. I may need this help, or I might not be brave enough to administer it when the time comes. But the option should be there. For those of you who have witnessed loved ones suffer immensely at the ends of their lives as I have, it is a horrible thing, much more so for the person dying than the loved ones. I do not know what it will be like for me at the end of my life, but I hope you can grant me the help I may need to die peacefully in my sleep.

Thank you.