

**Testimony in Support of SB 443  
End-Of-Life Option Act (The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings  
and the Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass Act)**

TO: Senator Will Smith, Jr, Chair & members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee  
FROM: Shari Chilbert  
DATE: February 8, 2023

I am writing this during my period of grief—my best friend, my confidant, my cheerleader, the very best person I've ever known—my mom—passed away a few months ago. Losing her is heartbreaking—but watching her suffer through cancer was agonizing in more ways than one can imagine!

My mom was of sound mind, and knew without hesitation that she didn't want to live her life if there was no quality, no independence. Yet, she had no control over her own body's end to life, so therefore, could not choose to die with dignity. She wanted to leave this world on her own terms. Yet, she was not legally allowed to make her own decisions regarding her own body. This does not make sense- why should her life choices be in the hands of others who cannot carry out her wishes?

This bill is important as it will help protect a person's right over his/her body. I wish my mom was with me but I also wish she had total rights over her decision to end her life.

Please support the End of Life Option Act for Maryland. Please support SB 443.

Thank you,  
Shari Chilbert  
Montgomery County