

Senate Bill #0443

Miner L. Brown

Favorable

Sponsored by Senator Waldstreicher

Title: End-of-Life Option Act

Testimony

I strongly support the passage of Senate Bill #0443, entitled, “the End-of-Life Option Act”. The alternative names on this Bill says it all-Elijah Cummings and Shane Pendergast!

As a retired long-term care administrator and watching my father-in-law, a proud man, die 22 years after his Alzheimer Disease diagnosis, I know how he didn’t want to die and I know how I don’t want to die. My very specifically-worded Health Care Directive is quite clear-I want the choice of a peaceful and dignified end-of-life.

This should be a personal human right for each person. A person’s religious beliefs are their personal choice. So to, the legal ability to allow a person to make this last important decision in their life to be honored is long over-due.

If you have not read the book, Finish Strong by Barbara Coombs Lee, you should. It’s insightful, and will have a significant impact on importance of personal choice. As quoted in the Afterword of her book, she states, “When history is written, this period will be defining for end-of-life care: a more aware electorate, more engaged policymakers, and a more diverse and inclusive movement. Ultimately, we will see continued and accelerated policy change to improve care, expand options and create greater access to the full range of end-of-life care options.”

It’s time for the Maryland legislative leadership to make it happen.
Thank you.

Miner L. (Moe) Brown
Member, District 11B

