

Testimony Supporting SENATE BILL 443 End-of-Life Option Act

Judicial Proceedings Committee

February 8, 2024

Dear Senators Waldstreicher, Lam, Elfreth, Gile, Kelly, Lewis Young, Smith, West, and M. Washington

I am a resident of District 41 and wish to support this bill and encourage all the State Senators to approve this bill. I am a retired social worker who worked with people with severe illness for over 30 years in California and Maryland. I have seen suffering. I have witnessed debilitating illness of every kind that left people with poor quality of life and no hope of improvement.

There are many diagnoses that can cause the loss of each ability slowly but surely until the person is unable to move or feed him or herself while he or she waits until the heart stops. While palliative and hospice care can provide some pain control or symptom management, the people suffer while they are imprisoned in their own bodies. I have watched patients with ALS, Cancer, end stage Alzheimer's Disease and status/post strokes, etc., dependent on others for all care, including diapering. If an end of life patient or surrogate chooses to terminate the life of such a patient, it should legally be allowed with the assistance of health care professionals.

The End of Life Act is legal in the following states:

- Oregon
- Washington
- Montana
- Vermont
- California
- Colorado
- Washington D.C.
- Hawai'i
- New Jersey
- Maine
- New Mexico

We need the End-Of-Life Act in Maryland. Please make it so.

Sincerely,
Bonnie Weissberg
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