

FAV: Testimony in Support of SB 443

End-of-Life Option Act 2024

The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings and the Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass Act

I'm Susan Lyon of Rockville and I'm asking you to champion the rights of the terminally ill. I've been with a loved one who chose to die with medical aid.

Leah lived in DC where medical aid in dying is legal.

Leah was a wife, a teacher, and an artist. For six years, cancer ravaged her body. In her final three months, she couldn't eat or move, as her body consumed itself. There is pain so debilitating, it's beyond the reach of any drug.

Fortunately, Leah could choose her fate. *She* chose -- not the cancer, or anyone else.

She died how she lived --- with agency, dignity, and resolve.

NO ONE *is* forced to choose medical aid in dying, but for those who need it—and for those who love them—it's a godsend.