

**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: Becca Forte, Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland
DATE: February 8, 2023

Please support **SB 443 the End of Life Option Act for Maryland**. This bill is important to me personally as a granddaughter, and as a human being. It seeks to protect my autonomous rights over my body and would have protected the rights of my grandmother over hers. I mention my grandmother because she is someone who recently grappled with these personal decisions, before passing this past year.

My grandmother, who I called “Omi,” was a Holocaust refugee who lived to age 86 with multiple cancers and severe breathing problems.

Last year she submitted testimony that said:

“I am an 86 year old female with multiple cancers and severe breathing problems. I was very fortunate and made it through COVID, however many of my friends did not. I am at a point now where I need to start thinking about how I’m going to die.”

“I want to do it with dignity. I do not want to ever want to go to a hospital again. I do not drive anymore. I cannot shop for myself. I have difficulty if I bend over because of the breathing problems. Right now I am still living by myself, however I have no idea how much longer I can do that. When I am ready to give up my apartment I do not want to live with any of my children because I do not want to be a burden.”

“All of my children and grandchildren are in accord with my wishes, which are to die with dignity. This means in a way where I won’t be in pain and I can peacefully leave the earth. I don’t have to go to the hospital. I don’t have to be resuscitated. I don’t have to do all the things that they do to keep people alive for no good reason at my age.”

Please grant Marylanders the autonomy, choice, and option that my grandmother asked for.

Thank you,
Rebecca Forte
District 33