

**Oppose SB0443/HB0403 End-of-Life Option Act**  
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When someone believes there is no longer a reason to live, society has a mandate to protect them from committing suicide. This is especially true for people weakened by illness. Our current Maryland law prevents assisted suicide. Do not reverse course and open the door to legal victimization of people when they are sick. The powerful will always win.

We will all be weak and vulnerable when we become sick. When our doctor presents death by drug overdose as a treatment for our illness, it will make us consider if our life is worth living. With every new choice comes a responsibility. Are we responsible for deciding when we will die? Some people might like this choice, but there will be many more will be lured into dying an untimely and wrongful death.

Reporters cannot even mention suicide without printing information to a suicide hotline, because people may fall victim to the act simply by considering the idea. (See reporting on suicide)

Imagine how much more persuasive it will be when our doctor is presenting it as a medical treatment.

Suicide should not be offered as a legitimate medical option. This makes every person facing a terminal illness responsible for deciding if they should end their life or continue to be a burden on others who care for them. I do not want the weight of this decision on my shoulders when I am become sick. When we are sick and fighting to live, who will have the energy to go on if we think others might be better off if we were dead.

This bill is fashioned after the Oregon Law and 48% ( On average over 25 years) choose to end their life because they felt like a burden. (See page 14 of the Oregon Death with Dignity annual report) We are all going to be a burden when we become sick.

If you want to keep the government out of our private doctor patient relationship, and protect us from falling victim to suicide, then you must oppose SB0443.

Maryland is the state with premier healthcare. Keep it that way. Invest your energies in supporting cutting edge treatments for pain control, cancer cures, and improving hospice and palliative care.

America holds great promise as long as you do not succumb to the pressures of high paid lobbyist. If you feel their pressure now, just wait until you are beat down by a terminal illness and “death by choice” is calling you to hasten to your death.

Oppose SB0443/HB0403– while you have the strength to do it.