

## Testimony in Support of HB1328

Good afternoon, Delegate (and Chair) Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Delegate (and Vice Chair) Bonnie Cullison, and honorable members of the Health and Government Operations Committee. My name is Ali Brill and I live in Silver Spring, MD.

I am writing to express my **strong** support for the passage of HB1328, the End-of-Life Option Act (The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings and the Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass Act). This bill represents a compassionate, ethical, and respectful choice for individuals who are facing terminal illness and are suffering from unbearable pain and loss of autonomy.

For many, the end of life can be an incredibly difficult and painful journey. As a society, we have made great strides in ensuring that people are able to live with dignity. However, as we approach the end of life, the same compassion should be extended to those who are suffering. The choice to end one's life with dignity, free from unnecessary pain, is a basic human right that respects an individual's autonomy and personal values.

The End-of-Life Option Act offers an opportunity for terminally ill individuals to retain control over their lives, ensuring they can die on their own terms. By passing this bill, Maryland will provide individuals the option to avoid unnecessary suffering and preserve the right to die with dignity. It is a step toward ensuring that no one is forced to endure prolonged suffering when they should have the right to choose a more peaceful and compassionate end.

Though I do not have a personal story to accompany my testimony, I am trained as an end-of-life doula, and stay up-to-date on these issues, so I have come across many accounts of folks struggling with the limits of our end-of-life options here in the States. I am SO proud that Maryland passed the Green Death Care Options Act (HB1168/SB1028) last spring. Maryland has long been a leader in advancing human rights and compassionate care, and the passing of the Green Death Care Options Act was a *huge* win for people's right to choose. Passing the End-of-Life Option Act, would further cement our state as a champion of dignity, respect, and **choice** in end-of-life care.

***I urge you*** to support this critical legislation and give terminally ill Marylanders the opportunity to make their own decisions about their final days.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment to advancing the rights of all Marylanders!

Sincerely,  
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