

I am Dr. Lawrence Wilt, of Catonsville. My Ph.D. is in Philosophy with a specialty in Ethics. I want to thank the Committee for their consideration of my testimony.

I support the Maryland End-of-Life Option Act of 2025 (HB1328/SB926). My support stems primarily from my desire to have the freedom to exercise my right to choose among End of Life Options, unimpeded by government. I witnessed my mother's avoidance of extreme pain from cancer through an injection of morphine a few days before she would have died of the cancer. I am thankful that she was able to avoid those last days of pain and suffering. It was her right.

I believe that the legislation has sufficient protections in it, to prevent people who lack the capacity for sound judgment and people who may experience coercion, from having access to this right. However, if anyone has doubts that the protections are not adequate, I urge you to add additional protections to the legislation that would satisfy your doubts, rather than simply vote against it as it stands. There are several other protective measures that could be added. I believe that such additional protective measures merely serve to exclude more people with genuine, legitimate need from eligibility. Nevertheless, I would rather have the right of end of life self determination available to a few than to none.

I will make myself available for consultation on how to make the legislation more restrictive than it now is. Some of these can also be gleaned from other jurisdictions. To consult with me please use the following:

My email is larry.wilt@gmail.com. My cellphone is 410 804 1843.