

February 27, 2025

HB 1328 End-of Life Option Act. Support.

With memories of my family member who died in 2023 at age 104 in mind and heart, I write in support of this bill. A resident of Maryland, he had long desired to die in peace, without pain, and at a time and in a manner of his choosing. The pills he somehow acquired and stashed away for that purpose decades ago had no doubt expired and were not likely to meet his objectives even if he had taken them. It should not have been illegal for a licensed medical doctor in the family to advise him about these matters. There should have been no fear of risk for his primary care physician to discuss his wishes with him, prescribe appropriately, coach him on tapering his life-prolonging meds when he felt the time had come, and recommend him for hospice care in a timely manner.

Maryland is known as The Free State. Passing this bill is about ensuring bodily autonomy for this and other beloved elders at the end of their lives. I also write as a hemiplegic stroke survivor to say that the bill language effectively protects against misuse and discrimination against disabled persons.

Sincerely,
Rev. Diane Teichert
4321 Van Buren Street
University Park, MD 20782