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In Support of HB1328/SB926  
End of Life Option Act

· Good day to members of the committee. My name is Brandi Alexander and I am a resident of the gorgeous Prince George's County and for the past 20 years I have worked to advance end-of-life care options around the country. I ask YET again, how many more Marylanders have to die without this option? We sit in here year after year debating opinions and statistics and facts but this is about people, dying people that deserve more from their leadership. The only fact that really matters is that Marylanders want this. This year's Gonzales poll found that 72% of Marylanders are in support, which is actually UP from 66% in 2109. Yet and still we continue to spend hours, actually YEARS pontificating, dying people are suffering NOW!

Death is universal and one of the most powerful and personal times in our lives, and every single one of us should be able to decide on the care we want that is consistent with OUR values, priorities and beliefs, not yours.

This is about dying people's option...The question is how they die...not if they will die. People who seek medical aid in dying want to live, but are stricken with life-ending illnesses.

If you don't support medical aid in dying, then don't use it! It is that simple. But please stop trying to stand in the way of capable, terminally ill adults.

I will close with a powerful quote from The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings in the testimony he provided in support of this option about people he had to watch suffer and die.

*... As I recall these losses for you, I must acknowledge that my prayer for those dying loved ones, deprived of any reasonable hope for a prolonged life, was for a respectful and compassionate end to their suffering — and a swift journey to that better place...*

*As a just and compassionate society, we cannot value life in the abstract and deny to those who are about to die the self-determination that they deserve.*

*For these reasons, I commend and support those who would enact this reform in our laws.*

Thank you and please let this be the last year!