

I strongly oppose [HB1328](#)

My brother had advanced cancer and was given less than 6 months to live. Now, more than 16 years later, he is healthy and living a full and active life. He had a very positive attitude and supportive family, but others in his situation could easily become depressed, and not want to be a burden, and could be coerced into ending their lives. Mental health screening should be mandatory, but more importantly, this law should not be passed at all.

If the government wants to promote real dignity for these patients, it should work to improve hospice, palliative care and treatment for pain and discomfort, and real discussions about end-of-life care options; this would be real medical aid for these patients, not physician assistance in ending one's life.

The disabled, elderly, and minority communities already experience disparities in healthcare access and quality. Legalizing suicide as a medical course-of-action will only serve to further erode the healthcare that vulnerable people currently receive, especially since it is much less expensive than continuing treatments.

Mary Beaudoin
Silver Spring MD 20901