

House Bill 1328

Miner L. Brown

Favorable

Title: End-of Life Option Act (The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings and The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass Act)

To: Delegate Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair, House, Health, & Government Operations Committee and Committee Members

Testimony submitted by Miner L. (Moe) Brown (District 11B)

Member, Social Action Advocacy Committee, Chizuk Amuno Congregation, Pikesville, MD

I **strongly favor** the passage of House Bill 1328. This Act does not decide between living and dying! It does offer a dying person the opportunity to choose how they die. **This bill also has over 50 Delegate co-sponsors.**

This Bill has nothing to do with the religious beliefs of a legislator to make this most important decision for their constituents. Passage of this Bill has everything to do with a legislator helping to provide the legal opportunity for a person to choose how they wish to end their life- peacefully and without further unbearable suffering. You need to understand that over 70% of all Maryland adults surveyed support this legislation; 79% of voters with disabilities support this option; and there are 50 Delegates who are co-sponsoring the enactment of this legislation.

Currently, there are 10 other states and Washington, D.C. that allow medical aid in dying, beginning with Oregon in 1997. This Bill has been modeled after the Oregon Death and Dignity Enactment and other current authorized jurisdictions where there have been zero- 0- instances of abuse or coercion in almost 30 years. **It is time overdue for Maryland residents to have the same gentle dying option.**

I am an 84-year-old, former long term care administrator, who has seen more suffering by people of all ages than I care to remember including a close friend who just died of liver cancer (the most intolerable form of cancer) after burying her terminally ill, bed-ridden husband and a son within the previous 9 months. I thank each of the Committee members for considering this written testimony to allow mentally capable, terminally ill adults the end-of-life care option to obtain prescription medication they can decide to take in order to peacefully end their unbearable suffering. God bless you for your assistance in helping to provide solace to the multitude of your constituents who become terminally ill, and their families through your actions.