

**Testimony by David Snapp in Support of
Maryland End-of-Life Option Act ([HB1328/SB926](#))**

My name is David Snapp, and I reside in Silver Spring. Thanks to Senator Will Smith and Delegate Joseline Peña-Melnyk and their Committees for considering my testimony.

I am writing in strong support of the Maryland End-of-Life Option Act ([HB1328/SB926](#)).

In recent years I have had the experience of going through the end-of-life process with both of my parents. My father battled lung cancer, which as often happens had metastasized to his spine. His final days were dominated by terrible pain, pain that was inconsistently controlled. My mother died just over a year ago at 93 in a nursing home, where in her final days she experienced a declining quality of life and widespread arthritis that made any movement painful.

I don't know whether my parents would have availed themselves of the gentle death option provided by this legislation. But I do know both were far into the dying process, were ready for death and anxious for the suffering they experienced to end.

At age 72, I am fortunate to be in good health. But I can imagine being at a stage like my parents when I would wish that this option existed for me.

The proposed legislation has considerable safeguards to ensure that this process is under the full control of the one person directly affected. If anything, the processes and procedures are sufficiently restrictive that many people who might wish to take advantage of it will not be able to. There have not been *documented* cases of abuse of similar laws in other states, and the relatively small numbers who have used this option also attests to the fact that the safeguards in these bills are quite restrictive.

I understand that, for some, taking the steps offered in this bill run against their personal or religious beliefs. That is their choice, and this legislation would not affect their ability to make their own choices. What this bill provides is the option to be available for myself and the many others (and their families) who would wish for this humane and gentle option, under their own competent control.

Please pass this humane and necessary legislation. Thank you.