

HB1328-OPPOSED

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Honorable Delegates,

I have been a nurse in Maryland for the past 50 years and believe the sponsors/supporters of this bill have created an illusion that taking your own life is a dignified way to die. It is not. On the contrary, it would forever change the doctor/patient relationship, which is rooted in the oath, "do no harm" Any scenario given can be treated with palliative care, so dying is not something to fear. Do not force people to consider the value of their life, especially the weak, vulnerable, those alone or depressed, as they are at greatest risk.

As a **care-giver** my entire adult life and now age 78, I fear becoming a **care-receiver** living in a State that has little value of life-affirming legislation but rather focuses on promoting a culture of death. This legislation was rejected 7 times over as many years. Why is it back? Could it be our voices are never heard as voters? I vote. Could it be your political agendas supersede our message?

Personally, I have been blessed to care for both parents who died, 3 years apart, one in my home. I also lived for 3 weeks with my sister who had Down's Syndrome, and experienced the ultimate gift of comforting her, a 53-year-old who had absolutely no idea what was happening to her but knew her sister and niece were by her side every step of the way, until she took her last breath. Her life and the God-given privilege of holding her as she died were blessings, not burdens.

How wrong you would be to deprive anyone from those life-changing, exceptional experiences.

I oppose any law that allows physician assisted suicide. Human life is precious. Our right to life is the first right we have. Without it, no other right is possible or matters. We are called to help each other and protect each other, not protect us *from* each other.

As elected officials and legislators, your duty is to protect life, not enable the snuffing out of it. I urge you to reject these efforts to codify the killing of our fellow brothers and sisters.

Sincerely,

Christina Bauman M.Ed., C.A.S.E.