



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Ryan Moran, Dr.PH, Acting Secretary

March 3, 2025

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241, Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: HB 1328 - End-of-Life Option Act (The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings and the Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass Act) - Letter of Support

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this letter of support for House Bill (HB) 1328 - End-of-Life Option Act (The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings and the Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass Act). The bill would establish a process for an individual suffering from a terminal illness to request aid in dying with protections to ensure that the individual has the capacity to make the decision. The bill also requires the Department to establish regulations regarding the collection of data around the option and to publish an annual statistical report surrounding the process.

HB 1328 seeks to establish a legal framework that allows terminally ill, mentally capable adults to access medical aid in dying under specific, well-defined conditions. The bill includes rigorous safeguards to ensure that eligible patients are making voluntary, informed decisions in consultation with their healthcare providers. The legislation aligns Maryland with many other U.S. jurisdictions that have implemented similar laws, offering terminally ill individuals autonomy over their end-of-life care while maintaining strong protections against coercion and misuse. By ensuring a structured and regulated process, HB 1328 maintains the integrity of medical practice while upholding the dignity of patients who wish to make deeply personal decisions regarding their care.

The Department supports HB 1328 as it reinforces Maryland's commitment to comprehensive, compassionate healthcare that respects patients' rights while ensuring the highest ethical and medical standards. The Department remains committed to collaborating with stakeholders to implement any necessary regulatory measures to uphold the integrity of the program.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director of Governmental Affairs at sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ryan B. Moran". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ryan B. Moran, DrPH, MHSA
Acting Secretary