

Oppose SB 0926, End-of-Life Option Act

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As a 59-year Montgomery County resident, senior, and taxpayer, I do not believe in suicide assistance. Legislators should not approve assistance to end one's life.

There are times when a patient is incoherent and later gets better. I have seen my mother being incoherent and after going to the hospital she was back to normal. I am against any person getting authorization to help aid in dying. As a legislator, you should have compassion and support all services and hospice care when needed.

Physicians take an oath to heal people not kill them. I am dealing with a friend who cannot make his own decisions and is in hospice. I can still visit this person because he is still a human being worthy of life.

Here are important reasons to oppose this bill:

- Physicians often cannot definitively forecast how long a patient will live.
- Most pain can be relieved or eliminated with medicine or other treatments.
- It is immoral to encourage a person to take their own life.
- Once assisted suicide is legalized, patients may be pressured to end their lives.
- Assisted suicide could be expanded in the future to include teens and children.
- Parents could choose to eliminate infants if they have a disability.
- Patients who do not accept assisted suicide could be kept unconscious and denied nourishment to hasten death.
- Patients with a serious illness can be denied treatment as “not appropriate.”
- Lethal drugs prescribed for an individual may end up killing someone else by error or purpose.
- People could be denied economic and home health assistance.

I strongly encourage you to oppose Bill 1328 and allow individuals to die naturally without others making that decision.

Thank you.