

SB926  
End-of-Life- Options  
(The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings and the Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass Act)

Good Afternoon Chairman William Smith and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

This testimony is being submitted on behalf of the Democratic Club of Leisure World. Leisure World is a senior community of adults 55+. The current population is approximately 8,500 residents. Our society is experiencing a profound demographic shift. Every day 10,000 people turn 65. By 2030, 72 million people will be 65 or older. As Boomers reach retirement age, we are becoming the largest generation of people over the age of 65 in history. Boomers and other Americans want to die at home with loved ones close by. We want to be home not tethered to machines in the cold isolation of an acute care unit, but the truth is, one out of every five U.S. adults will die in the ICU - because intense technology remains the signature of a healthcare system that views death as a failure

We realize this is a controversial, emotional topic and not a choice for everyone. However, it is a choice we would like to make for ourselves and one we believe others should be able to make or not, as they wish. "As they wish" is an important distinction. This is not something anyone has to do but rather an option. Currently Ten states and DC have passed a law that allows an individual with a terminal illness to make this personal decision.

To be eligible for medical assistance in dying a person must meet the following criteria:

- The person must be an adult
- Be mentally capable of making their own healthcare decisions:
- the individual must make multiple requests for the medication, including twice verbally and In writing.
- Be able to self ingest the medication
- Make a voluntary request to the physician without another person present
- Two doctors must agree the person has a terminal illness with 6 months or less to live
- The person is of sound mind and administers the medicine to themselves (people with advanced Dementia are not eligible)

Please allow MD residents the right to make this last and very important time in their lives one not to be afraid of, but one to end their lives on their terms.

We would, therefore request the passage of SB926

Thank you for your consideration.

Henry Osborne  
President Democratic Club of Leisure World

Kathleen Flamm  
Advocacy Committee

