

Judicial Proceedings Committee
Senate Bill 926
Favorable with Amendments

Honorable Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee;

Please give Senate Bill 926, the Honorable Elijah E. Cummings and the Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass Act, a Favorable report.

I have watched as family members have greatly suffered with terminal illnesses for months before finally dying. Those deaths were a relief. I have a strong religious belief that quality of life is of the utmost importance. If there is no quality of life, and no hope for quality of life, then why should one suffer? I recognize that suffering in and of itself may be a religious value to some people and that those people wouldn't request aid in dying. But that's no reason to deny it to those who will suffer for no good reason, and would welcome, even beg for, an end to it. One person's religious beliefs shouldn't dictate the choices of others.

Doctors wouldn't be forced to prescribe medications to aid in dying. That shouldn't prevent those who would from helping their patients. There are numerous steps to make sure that the patient truly wants and is capable of asking for aid in dying, and that patient has the ability to change their mind at any time.

The amendment I propose is to add methods of communication that can be used other than "oral" and "written" in the bill, since not everyone is capable of oral or written communication and they should have the same rights as others.

Please vote for Senate Bill 926. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Debi Jasen
Pasadena, MD