



Mission: *To improve public health in Maryland through education and advocacy*

Vision: *Healthy Marylanders living in Healthy Communities*

Resolution for Supporting “Medical Aid in Dying”

Whereas the Maryland Public Health Association’s mission of improving public health in Maryland through education and advocacy is intrinsically tied to the respect for the dignity of all Marylanders and freedom of belief and choice.

Whereas, medical aid in dying means the medical practice of a physician prescribing medication to a qualified individual that the qualified individual may self-administer to bring about the qualified individual’s death, and

Whereas, qualified individual means an individual who: (1) is an adult; (2) has the capacity to make medical decisions; (3) is a resident of the state; (4) has a terminal illness; and (5) has the ability to self-administer medication,” and

Whereas “terminal illness is a medical condition that, within reasonable medical judgment, involves a prognosis for an individual that likely will result in the individual’s death within 6 months,” and

Whereas Death with Dignity allows terminally ill patients to have control over their end of life, and

Whereas medical aid in dying has been legalized through the legislative and judicial means and by citizen’s initiatives in Oregon (1998), Washington (2008), Montana (2009) Vermont (2013), California (2016), Colorado (2016), District of Columbia (2016), Hawaii (2018), Maine (2019), and New Jersey (2019), and

Whereas physician support for medical aid in dying has increased from 46% in 2010 to 58% in 2018, while the opposition has decreased from 41% to 29%, and

Whereas a 2017 Gallup Poll demonstrated 73% of the American public supports some form of medical aid in dying, and

Whereas The American Ethical Union (2003), the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (2007), the American College of Legal Medicine (2008), the American Public Health Association (2008), the California Medical Association (2015), the Colorado Medical Society (2016), the Maryland State Medical Society (2016), the Maine Medical Association (2017), the Massachusetts Medical Society (2017), the Minnesota Medical Society (2017), the Nevada State Medical Association (2017), the Oregon Medical Association (2017), the Vermont Medical Society (2017), The American Academy of Family Practice (2018), the American Medical Women’s Association (2018), the American Academy of Neurology (2018), the New Mexico

Medical Society (2018), the Connecticut State Medical Society (2019), and others have adopted either engaged neutrality or support for medical aid in dying.

Therefore Be it Resolved that the Maryland Public Health Association urges its members, partners, and affiliates to take action in support of Death with Dignity legislation in the State of Maryland. Such legislation would legally allow terminally ill, mentally competent adult state residents to obtain a prescription for medications to end their life peacefully, in a dignified way, at the place and time of their choosing. Such legislation would permit qualified terminally ill patients to choose to end needless suffering by advancing the time of their approaching death. It would also provide peace of mind for many state residents in having access to the option of aid in dying, even if they do not exercise that option. Such legislation should include protection for physicians who supply such prescriptions.