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# YOUNG DEMOCRATS OF MARYLAND

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## STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

February 18, 2020

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
Maryland Senate  
Annapolis, MD

Dear Chairman Smith,

The Young Democrats of Maryland are pleased to write today in support of SB701.

The Executive Board of the Young Democrats of Maryland (YDM) has elected to take the following position on the End of Life Choices Act (SB701/HB643):

1. YDM believes state laws should grant equal access to the option for a terminally ill person who is able to make medical decisions for themselves to request medical assistance from a licensed physician to end one's life.
2. YDM believes that providing well regulated access to a full range of end of life options is ideal for the residents of Maryland and that the absence of such regulations puts Marylanders at risk of exposure to dangerous and unnecessarily painful alternatives; YDM further maintains that certain prohibition on certain end of life options do not produce health care services which are of higher quality or more equitable--they only serve to sweep the use of certain end of life options under the rug and stifle the development and delivery of high quality end of life healthcare to all Marylanders.
3. After review of a combined legislative history of more than 30 years in 9 states, YDM has found no confirmed evidence of family coercion of the developmentally disabled or elderly--rather, this and other bills like it, contain safeguards which go above and beyond in protecting the vulnerable members of our communities.
4. Like right to choose abortion, or the right to refuse care, YDM also holds true that the right to access a full range of end of life options is fundamentally a personal right.

Maryland's terminally ill persons should have the right to request medical assistance from a license physician to end one's life because it is a human rights issue. YDM believes in personal freedom and the decision of ending one's life is a very personal decision that one makes with



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themselves and a physician, which they could revoke at any time. We must allow people to have this option, it is important that we give them a choice.

Moving Maryland forward takes the work of all Marylanders and we implore you to favorably report this piece of legislation out of your committee.

Sincerely;

Demetrius Briscoe  
Legislative Director

Joseph Lynn Kitchen Jr.  
President