



HB0643 & SB0701 End-of-Life Option Act (Richard E. Israel & Roger “Pip” Moyer Act)

USM SUPPORTS HB 643 & SB 701 EOLO

KEY POINT: **United Seniors of Maryland**, through its coalition member groups & individuals, **represents 3 million seniors in our state**. We are a non-partisan, non-profit over 43 years of senior advocacy. We are the **fastest growing population in our state**, from rural Allegheny County & the Shores to the urban areas of Montgomery and Prince Georges counties. USM is the voice of seniors in Maryland.

KEY POINT: **United Seniors of Maryland endorses the End of Life Options Act.**

1. It is good legislation.
2. It has many checks and balances.
3. It provides access to an end-of-life care option that many of our members want.
4. It facilitates open and transparent dialogue between patient and doctor.
5. It provides the right to access care, when requested.

KEY POINT: USM is **UNANIMOUS** in supporting the bill.

1. **USM FULLY AGREES Maryland needs an End-of-Life Option that is regulated and provides access to our care options.**
2. USM believes this is a right to care bill.

KEY POINT: Our USM Legislative Committee has carefully reviewed the bill.

1. We have endorsed the bill since 2015; but we do not want to see any additional safeguards added to what it has now.
2. **At some point, those safeguards become obstacles and barriers to being able to access the law. We want the right to access to our care options.**
3. No changes in the bill.



KEY POINT: We wholeheartedly reject the argument that this bill will result in older Maryland residents being coerced by family members into accessing the law .

1. There is zero evidence from a combined 30 plus years of practice in other states that this happens. Now, many more states have granted this right to care.
2. There are far too many checks and balances in this bill. An individual has to be one hundred percent determined to access the aid in dying prescription to get through the measured timeline, multi-step process it requires.

Conclusion:

As the President of United Seniors of Maryland, I am testifying on the behalf of three million seniors and the behalf of myself as a CEO of a Health Care Provider for Community Based Home Care Services that cares for end-of-life clients for over 63 years, all over the State of Maryland.

I too am a Maryland resident, and my career has been serving our state's aging and disabilities population as one of the first State Disabilities Commissioners under Governor Ehrlich. It is always my goal to make sure they have access to the best possible care, and are **empowered to make health care decisions that match their own values and priorities.**

I will be happy to take questions during the Q and A later on. Thank you.

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