

March 4, 2024

The Honorable Brian Feldman, Chair
Education, Energy and Environment Committee

The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair
Health and Government Operations Committee

Maryland General Assembly
State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: HB 1168 / SB 1028 – The Green Death Care Options Act

Dear Chair Feldman and Chair Pena-Melnyk:

I am writing to urge your committees for a favorable report on the Maryland Green Death Care Options Act.

I want this option available for myself and my family. I always thought I would be cremated with my ashes spread on the Eastern Shore, but the more I learn about a natural, organic option, the more it interests me. I think I would like the choice to transform my body into soil instead of ash. And maybe I'll plant a tree along the shore and use my soil for the tree. In fact, we planted a beautiful magnolia in memory of my aunt last year - to think this could be an even more meaningful tribute for other family someday gives me comfort and peace.

This option is natural and safe for our shore and our families. And it would allow my family to be present with my body at the very end, placing me inside the vessel for the transformation to take place. This seems beautiful to me.

Please support this legislation so I can have the option for Natural Organic Reduction.

Thank you,
Brienne Whelan Cohen
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