

May 27, 1999

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.  
 President of the Senate  
 State House  
 Annapolis MD 21401

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed Senate Bill 319.

This bill prohibits an individual, with the purpose of assisting another person to commit or attempt to commit suicide, from: 1) knowingly causing (by coercion, duress, or deception) another person to commit or attempt to commit suicide; 2) knowingly providing the physical means by which another person commits or attempts to commit suicide with knowledge of the person's intent to use the physical means to commit suicide; or 3) knowingly participating in a physical act by which another person commits or attempts to commit suicide.

House Bill 496, which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by me on May 27, 1999, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign Senate Bill 319.

Sincerely,  
 Parris N. Glendening  
 Governor

### Senate Bill 319

AN ACT concerning

#### Assisted Suicide - Prohibition

FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from assisting another person's suicide or suicide attempt; excepting certain medical situations and procedures; ~~allowing certain persons with standing to seek civil or injunctive relief, and reasonable attorney's fees, from a violator of this Act; allowing certain persons with standing to seek certain civil penalties; allowing the relevant licensing board to take administrative action against a violator of this Act;~~ establishing certain penalties for a violation of this Act; making provisions of this Act severable; defining certain terms; and generally relating to assisted suicide.

BY adding to

Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments

Section 416 to be under the new subheading "Assisted Suicide"

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1996 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows: