

May 12, 2021

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Portland, OR 97207
800 247 7421 [phone](tel:8002477421)
CompassionAndChoices.org

House Committee on Health Care
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street, NE
Portland, OR 97301

Re: Support for SB 199A

Chair Prusak, Vice Chairs Hayden and Salinas, and Members of the Committee on Health Care:

As the nation's oldest and largest nonprofit organization working to improve and expand the quality and equity of end-of-life care, Compassion & Choices is committed to empowering individuals to obtain the care they want during a serious illness or at the end of life. One way we achieve that goal is to promote the preparation, completion, and use of advance directives, which provide clinicians information on a patient's treatment decisions. We applaud your leadership in furthering and promoting patient-directed care at the end of life with your consideration of [SB 199A](#).

Advance care planning helps ensure future medical treatment conforms with an individual's beliefs and values, mitigates bias to ensure people get the full breadth of care they want, and protects against excessive, unwanted treatment. Unfortunately, we live in a highly fragmented healthcare system, where clinicians providing medical care often have no knowledge or ability to access a patient's advance directive. As a result, clinicians are put into the unfathomable position of having to make life-altering end-of-life care decisions without knowing the patient's preference. SB 199A begins to address these challenges by calling for a standardized form and additional information to provide individuals to assist in their decision making at the end of life.

[COVID-19](#)¹ has shined a spotlight on an unfortunate reality that too few people have completed an advance directive. This problem is even more pervasive among communities of color, who face barriers to accessing information about end-of-life care and therefore, are far less likely than their white counterparts to have the necessary tools to talk about end-of-life care and planning, have documented their end-of-life

¹ COVID-19: Advance Care Planning:
<https://compassionandchoices.org/resource/covid-19-advance-care-planning/>

wishes or enroll in hospice care. By incorporating the advanced directive form with instructions for specific scenarios into code, more Oregonians will have information about what an advanced directive entails and what to consider when drafting an advanced directive, including addressing [what to do if they are diagnosed with COVID-19²](#).

Compassion & Choices applauds the commitment to creating an advance directive form that best serves the needs of Oregonians. If you have any questions, please contact me at jparrishtaylor@compassionandchoices.org or 503-347-1794.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored, textured background. The signature reads "Jennifer Parrish Taylor" in a cursive script.

Jennifer Parrish Taylor
NW Regional Advocacy Manager
Compassion & Choices
jparrishtaylor@compassionandchoices.org
503-347-1794

² COVID-19 Addendum: <https://compassionandchoices.org/wp-content/uploads/COVID-19-Addendum.pdf>