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### Testimony in support of **SB 1568**

Terminally ill prisoners and elderly incapacitated prisoners who can no longer take care of personal needs do not belong in a cell. It makes sense to release such prisoners who qualify and who are not a threat to anyone or to the community. Justice Advocates strongly supports SB 1511, to provide compassionate medical release.

We would like to see everyone released who qualifies and an assurance that housing and appropriate medical care will be available for all qualified individuals. It is not cost-effective for Department of Corrections to supply necessary care for terminally ill and incapacitated prisoners, and it should not be expected.

Unfortunately, since Oregon has not yet abolished mandatory sentencing, many prisoners who would otherwise qualify for compassionate medical release will not be eligible under this legislation. However, Justice Advocates supports SB 1568 as an important first step for a compassionate and sensible Oregon.