

Submitter: Mark Mazza
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB891

I am writing this in support of Oregon SB891. I am 1 of 6 children to my folks who passed away in April of 2022. The experience was a train wreck for all of us. In their final months they both were involved in numerous ambulance transports to the emergency room where they both contracted C. diff adding to their difficulties. My mother also broke her back, my father had prominent dementia, severe gout and painful bed sores that required full time care in the last 3 months adding to their agony. The search for nursing homes, palliative care, hospice and home care in the middle of the COVID pandemic added to the chaos of their passing. We had to pay \$20,000 per month for home care while trying to decide what to do at each stage of their bodies failing. We had enormous difficulty getting "permission" for medication and advancement of the assistance they required. Healthcare professionals were painfully difficult to get prompt assistance from! It was an awful, painful, bureaucratic process full of threatening state regulation getting in the way of their wishes and ours. I can't begin to describe the complications, all of the traveling, scheduling, online meetings of the family across the west coast that were required.

In my family we never understood how awful, unhelpful, expensive, bureaucratic and painful dying in the US has become in our society. We never dreamed the bureaucratic interference could be so heartless, inconsiderate and complicated! Neither of my parents wanted this drawn-out process of agony, tears, and pain that made their exit miserable. American's who have not faced this kind of situation, do not understand how intrusive government can be in a very personal, private and complex process of dying in each family's unique circumstances. Nobody, including government, should interfere in a family's attempt to provide a peaceful exit for their parents in their 90's.

This experience has left everyone in our extended family including grandchildren and their offspring wondering just how awful their exit from life will be. Those concerns have made all of us advocates of death with dignity. I feel very strongly that nobody should interfere in the decision that a senior makes about the time of their exit from life. I don't even like the 48-hour rule. When you are dying, you don't want the cold, heartless "state" interfering in your end-of-life choice in ways that can create legal jeopardy for your loved ones.

In a democracy, bad actors always seek to undermine justice by taking advantage of laws, but in this case, you must find ways to liberalize end-of-life choice as a very large segment of the population is reaching their senior years. We don't want

government intrusion into this very personal, private decision to make our exit peaceful and sane! Thanks for your consideration.