

KEVIN L. MANNIX
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 21



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 18, 2023

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I cannot be present today, but I offer the following remarks, which I made on the House floor, in opposition to this bill.

Back in 1997, throughout the debates we had in Oregon, one of the important requirements of the Death with Dignity Act was that you needed to be a resident of Oregon because we were taking care of our own. Whether or not you opposed or supported the concept, one of the key elements was that we in Oregon were setting up a process which, as a state, we could control and define exactly how that process worked. That included that you be a resident because that meant that you had been going through the healthcare system of this state at the time you saw sought to avail yourself of the Death with Dignity Act.

Now, I recognize that there was a lawsuit. The lawsuit was not concluded with the judicial ruling. It was concluded with a settlement where the state essentially said, "We give up, we are settling this. We are not going to require the residency requirement." Now, I am not happy with that settlement, and we do not have to approve that settlement. We can say yes, if you want to sue us on the Death with Dignity Act, then we will go back to court, and we will defend the concept that we Oregonians made, a decision for Oregonians and not for people from the rest of the United States or rest of the world.

So whether or not you support Death with Dignity, the whole point here is are we going to acquiesce to the settlement which takes away from the people of this state of

KEVIN L. MANNIX
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 21



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Oregon their determination that residency would be required. If you want to take that back to the voters, I'd like to see what they say. But for right now, I reject this settlement agreement, I vote no on this bill, and I call on our Department of Justice to wake up and be willing to litigate to defend the will of the people as it was in the Death with Dignity Act that was approved in the state of Oregon.

So I encourage everyone to look at whether or not we have to appease those who would challenge the decisions of our people or whether or not we will continue to litigate and say that we had some reasons for requiring residency in this state. Those reasons included the fact that you had availed yourself of healthcare within this state before you made the decision that you wanted to end your own life using a process that we make available. That is why I oppose this bill and encourage you to join me in its opposition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kevin L. Mannix'.

Representative Kevin L. Mannix

Oregon House District 21