

Submitter: Michael Nacrelli
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1003

Senate Bill 1003 would expand assisted suicide here in Oregon by reducing the 15-day waiting period to a mere 48 hours; allowing non-physicians to prescribe lethal medication; and forcing health care facilities to publicly disclose their participation in assisted suicide, making it easier to funnel patients toward pro-assisted suicide facilities. Without a doubt, this bill would lead to a stark increase in the rates of assisted suicide deaths and produce a callous system of death on demand.

The data shows that many people who seek assisted suicide do so because they feel like a burden, not because they lack pain relief.

While assisted suicide is often advertised as a “compassionate” option that provides “dignity” to people who are suffering, this is a dangerous falsehood. Assisted suicide and its expansion communicates that some lives—especially the elderly, disabled, and medically complex—are less worth living. This mentality places people with disabilities and mental illnesses at increased risk in our communities.

Real dignity and compassion is shown in love, care, and support—not in offering death as a solution. Instead of expanding assisted suicide, we should invest in better palliative care and true support for those who are suffering.

Please look carefully at this legislation and the harm it will cause. I hope you will choose to support true compassion and dignity by rejecting the expansion of assisted suicide.