

Submitter: Rachel Freed

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1003

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 1003, which seeks to modify the provisions of the Oregon Death With Dignity Act. I believe that this bill is fundamentally wrong and poses serious ethical concerns that cannot be overlooked.

By expanding or altering the provisions of this Act, we risk creating an environment where the lives of individuals with disabilities, chronic illnesses, or mental health challenges are undervalued. The notion that assisted dying is a viable solution for suffering can lead to coercion, whether intentional or unintentional, and may drive individuals to feel that they are a burden to their families and society.

Moreover, I believe it is fundamentally wrong to normalize the idea of assisted dying as a response to pain and suffering. Instead of seeking to modify existing laws, we should focus on improving palliative care and mental health support, ensuring that every individual has access to the care they need to live their final days with dignity and comfort.

It is crucial that we uphold the sanctity of life and provide a supportive environment for those facing terminal illnesses. Modifying the Oregon Death With Dignity Act could undermine that commitment and lead us down a troubling path.

In closing, I urge you to reconsider the implications of SB 1003. Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.