

Submitter: Gary Richardson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1003

I am writing to express my deep concern over the proposed changes to Oregon's assisted suicide law, which would reduce the waiting period from 15 days to just 48 hours and allow non-physicians to prescribe lethal drugs. These changes dangerously erode the already insufficient safeguards in our current law and put vulnerable Oregonians at even greater risk.

A 48-hour waiting period is alarmingly short for a decision of this magnitude—one that is irreversible. The potential for coercion, whether from family members, financial pressures, or depression, is immense. Studies have shown that many individuals who express a desire to end their lives change their minds when given time, support, and proper care. Reducing the waiting period denies them that chance.

Additionally, allowing individuals with less medical training and ethical accountability than a licensed physician to prescribe lethal drugs is profoundly irresponsible. The decision to end a life should never be taken lightly, and it should not be placed in the hands of those with less expertise or oversight. Oregon should be increasing protections for its most vulnerable, not weakening them.

Instead of accelerating death, we should be focusing on improving access to quality end-of-life care, mental health support, and compassionate alternatives such as palliative care and hospice services. I urge you to stand against this dangerous proposal and work to ensure that Oregon law protects life rather than hastens its end.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope you will take a stand for ethical and responsible policymaking.