

Submitter: Patricia Wafer

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1003

I am an Oregon Licensed Clinical Social Worker, having worked in this business for over 30 years. I am strongly opposed to this bill, "death on demand". It is dangerous.

In the course of my clinical work, I've worked with MANY folks who are experiencing depressive episodes and speak of "I'd just be better off dead".

However, after:

1. therapeutic interventions in the moment of crisis (i.e. caring connections, developing resources),
2. family/friend interventions (i. e. "you matter" messages)
3. if warranted, medication assessment
4. if warranted, spiritual connections

Always, the client determines that LIFE is better off lived, rather than dying. These steps take time, and that time (days...weeks) are critical for a person who is hurting, to be able to re-assess things and take steps towards healing and hope.

A 48 hour window is simply too short a period of time for someone in a state of mental (and, often, physical) distress, to make a fatal decision about their life.

Additionally, health care facilities and hospices should NOT be required to post assisted suicide as an option provided. This kind of language will unduly pressure people who are already vulnerable - both patients and their families.

I implore you, on behalf of very vulnerable people, to reject this bill!

Sincerely,
Patricia Wafer LCSW LLC
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