

Regarding SB 1003:

There is zero reason for removing the safety rails from the assisted suicide law. Zero. Unless the point is to get people dead before they can think it through, before they can have serious discussions with their families or their doctors. Oh, wait, that's right. This legislation gets rid of the physician requirement as well. So, we can't call it physician-assisted suicide anymore.

What is the problem we are addressing with this legislation? Is there a backlog of people who are unable to wait two weeks to be killed? Are their doctors too busy to prescribe their poison, forcing them to wait weeks for an appointment? If so, so be it! Some of you on this panel have argued for a waiting period to buy a gun – to avoid rash decisions. How is this any different?

The safety provisions in the suicide law were part of a negotiation, a good faith negotiation intended to respect life, to treat a serious issue with mindfulness, not to create the fast-food answer to someone's potentially temporary depressive mood.

How far are we willing to go for a speedy and efficient death? Maybe a drive-up-death window, where folks would drive up, open their mouths like little birds, and receive their deadly dose. We could partner with McDonalds and call the prescriptions McDeathinol and pair it with a McFlurry so it goes down smoothly. Alternatively, we could hire snipers to take 'em out in the parking lot and avoid the lunchtime rush. Or, even more efficient, we could have them stand in front of prepared graves, shoot them and then bury them on the spot. You know, in Mexico, the cartels save money by having their targets dig their own graves.

A two-week wait is little enough to require in a life-and-death situation. Who knows what can happen in two weeks? Maybe a lot. Maybe a healthy conversation with a family member, a pain-relief program that has time to work.

There is no reason to remove the safeguards on assisted suicide. There is no huge demand or need to do so. There is no problem to be solved here.

But Oregon has many real pressing problems. Things Oregon voters ARE demanding you to work on. How about we work on some of those?

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