



Senate Committee On Judiciary  
Senate Bill 1003  
Monday, March 3, 2025  
Sister Veronica Schueler, FSE  
Director, Oregon Catholic Conference

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Committee,

The Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon believes Oregon should be a sanctuary where every human being is deeply valued and protected. We believe in protecting the inherent dignity of every human person, born and unborn. We also believe that everyone, at the end of life, deserves dignity and adequate health care in the final stages of life. Senate Bill 1003 inherently devalues human beings at the end-of-life stage.

SB 1003 is not the answer for Oregonians for the following reasons:

- It extends the range of people who can prescribe life-ending medication to providers with less medical training and experience than physicians and who may operate in situations where there are fewer safeguards (i.e. urgent care facilities).
- With the 2023 removal of Oregon's "death with dignity" residency requirement, under SB 1003, anyone in the country could be prescribed lethal drugs from an Oregon provider.
- It requires providers to list their policy on this matter on their website and to inform patients which risks exposing such providers to harassment and/or boycotts.
- Forcing health care facilities to disclose their assisted suicide policy will push patients towards death and not the health care they need. There is no provision in SB 1003 for making sure that adequate palliative care and pain management are available to patients.
- The waiting period will be shortened from 15 days to 48 hours. The doctor can also waive the waiting period if the patient requests it and the doctor determines that the patient will die before the end of the waiting period. This makes no sense since we are only talking about 48 hours and this provision gives the impression that the drafters of the bill are only interested in hastening patient death.

Oregon was the first state in the Union to legalize assisted suicide and that process already has the full protection of the law. Over the years the protections Oregonians voted for have been whittled away. SB 1003 further erodes the few protections that exist and simultaneously pushes vulnerable Oregonians hastily towards death. SB 1003 is not the solution to an under-resourced health care system.

Please VOTE NO on SB 1003.

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