

Submitter:

Marcia Liebe

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1003

I oppose SB 1003. People who are depressed are unable to make an informed decision regarding "death on demand". I have personal experience in this area. My husband was experiencing an untreated severe depressive episode. I tried to get help for him early on after recognizing his depression. However, he had to call himself to make an appointment with a psychiatrist. He wasn't able to do that. Even so, there is a 4 to 6 month wait to see a psychiatrist. His method of choice to deal with the depression was to stop eating and drinking. He was near death when he was finally able to get the treatment he needed. It is now 3 years later and we are enjoying time together. Perhaps we as a culture should concentrate on encouraging more health care providers to give treatment rather than provide an easy way out of pain. I can say that my husband is thankful he is still living.