

Submitter: Leslie Schockner
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1003

I am an older person who has and is experiencing caring for friends and family who are grateful for the option offered by Oregon's Death With Dignity Act. We talk of this as an option as we contemplate how we would like our end days to occur. I write in support of this legislation that will make it less complicated and burdensome for those who are making personal decisions for themselves to be able to access the care they want without unnecessary barriers. For someone who has been reassured since I first voted for this legislation (twice) 20 years ago that such an option would be available to me IF I needed it, I was disturbed - at best - to read how hard it often is for individuals choosing to use this program to actually access these medications when needed. The source of my dismay was reading a recent book by an anthropologist called *The Day I Die*, by Anita Hannig, in which the difficulties people have in finding healthcare professionals to assist them when they need it was made all too clear through her case studies, most of which were in Oregon. <https://www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/60049471-the-day-i-die> In the current situation when it is becoming increasingly difficult to even find a primary care doctor (I've lost 3 due to retirement or just quitting clinical practice in the last few years) broadening the number and types of medical providers who can assist those who want to die on their own terms can only be a huge gift to us and our families. The records Oregon has kept, and annual reports, over the life of this program show that it is a huge benefit for those wishing to use it. And just to emphasize the point, no one is forcing this choice on people, especially not, as one commenter averred, her parents with dementia, since someone with that condition does not have the capacity to make the choice.