

Submitter: LaDonna Robey
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1003

Dear Legislators,

I am writing to urge your support for SB 1003, a crucial step in removing the unnecessary barriers that patients and clinicians face under Oregon's Death With Dignity (DWD) Act. As an Oncology Nurse Practitioner specializing in prostate cancer, I have spent years walking alongside my patients, not just as a provider but as a trusted companion through their most difficult journey.

Some of the men I care for have been my patients for over a decade. I first met them in 2012 when I was a nurse, and I have continued to care for them as a nurse practitioner. I have listened to their hopes and fears, watched their grandchildren grow through photos and stories, and been there when treatments gave them more time. And I have also been there when options ran out. I have had the heartbreaking conversations when we reach the point of no further treatment—when the battle is ending, not by choice, but by the nature of the disease.

It is in these moments that my patients turn to me with one final request—one that speaks to the deep trust we have built over years of care. They ask me to be the one to guide them through their Death With Dignity journey. They ask if I can be the one to prescribe and oversee their final moments, ensuring they pass peacefully, free from suffering, surrounded by loved ones. They ask this because I have been with them through it all. And yet, under current law, I cannot grant them this final dignity.

Oregon's SB 1003 seeks to remove barriers that prevent patients from accessing DWD in a timely and compassionate manner. The current regulations—such as waiting periods that prolong suffering and restrictions on prescribing providers—only serve to create unnecessary hurdles for patients who have already endured so much. This bill would allow qualified Advanced Practice Providers (APPs), like myself, to fulfill our patients' wishes, eliminating unnecessary delays that force them to suffer longer than they should.

Dying with dignity should not be a privilege—it should be a right. And the person who has cared for a patient through every step of their disease should not be barred from providing the care they trust most in their final moments.

I implore you to support SB 1003 and stand with the patients and clinicians who believe in a compassionate, patient-centered approach to end-of-life care. Please remove the barriers that deny patients the ability to pass with peace, dignity, and the presence of the provider who has walked this path with them.

With deep respect and urgency,

LaDonna Robey
Oncology Nurse Practitioner