

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1003

Allowing Physician Associates (PAs) and Nurse Practitioners (NPs) to prescribe death with dignity is a logical step forward in expanding access to compassionate end-of-life care. These highly trained healthcare professionals often have strong relationships with their patients, offering comprehensive care and detailed understanding of their medical conditions. PAs and NPs are extensively educated in diagnosing, managing, and treating illnesses, including those related to end-of-life care, which qualifies them to participate in the decision-making process surrounding death with dignity. By empowering them to prescribe life-ending medications, we ensure that more patients, especially those in underserved or rural areas, can access this compassionate choice without unnecessary barriers.

Furthermore, allowing PAs and NPs to prescribe death with dignity would help alleviate the strain on physicians, who may be in short supply, especially in certain specialties or geographic regions. These professionals are already involved in patient assessments, care coordination, and treatment planning, so extending their role in end-of-life decisions respects their expertise and fosters a more inclusive, efficient healthcare system. Ensuring that PAs and NPs have the legal ability to prescribe death with dignity promotes a more equitable and accessible approach to healthcare, enhancing patient autonomy and ensuring that all individuals have the right to receive the care they need during one of the most intimate and difficult times of their lives.