

Greetings. My name is Brian Leese. I have been an Internal Medicine physician for fifteen years and a Hospice and Palliative Medicine physician for five years. I strongly **SUPPORT** this legislation.

The ending of a story is of critical significance, and nowhere is this more true than in the stories of those we love. How a loved one dies can create a narrative that informs the experience of life and death for generations to come. Many times, the care that is received in the period just prior to death makes the difference between a family's story being one of trauma or one of peace and wholeness.

Provision of this vital care is the realm of hospice, and important trends are emerging which indicate the quality of hospice care is at great risk. This risk comes largely from for profit actors who have targeted outdated legislation and an under regulated hospice environment to exploit patients and families during one of the most vulnerable periods of life.^{1,2} The dramatic increase in the number of hospices over the last decade is not driven by an intention to improve care for patients, but rather by a motivation to take advantage of legislative loopholes in order to maximize profit while providing the minimum care necessary. This bill you are considering is urgently needed to curb the behavior of these bad actors and ensure Oregonians continue to receive the highest quality end of life care possible.

Thank you,

Brian Leese, DO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Leese', with a horizontal line underneath.

1. Teno JM. Hospice—The Time Is Now for Additional Integrity Oversight. *JAMA Health Forum*. 2023;4(5):e232045. doi:10.1001/jamahealthforum.2023.2045
2. Teno JM. Hospice Acquisitions by Profit-Driven Private Equity Firms. *JAMA Health Forum*. 2021;2(9):e213745. doi:10.1001/jamahealthforum.2021.3745