

Submitter:

Sarah Vinopal

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1162

I work as a community Palliative Care RN for Medicaid patients in the city of Portland and frequently hand off my patients to Hospices. I am able to stay involved with my patients for 30 days after hand off. When you work with multiple Hospice organizations, you get to see a bigger picture on how one agency manages patient care needs versus the other. I have noticed a difference in how non-profit vs for profit Hospice agencies works and it there is a big difference between the two. The end of someone's life is such a scary, vulnerable, sacred and intimate time that it should not be put in the hands of a company that is looking to make money from their death. Non-profits have the room to add on services that provide more comfort but cost the agency a bit to use-music therapy, volunteers, etc. They do not refuse to take back patients that go to the hospital in a moment of fear instead of calling the Hospice team, whereas non-profits will take patients back on and work with them on this fear.

They also are able AND willing to take someone who may last longer than expected without discharging them because they are losing money on them. A Hospice's end line should not be profit in death, but a death where the individual feels like they matter; where they are cared for and loved. If our community is saturated with for-profit Hospice agencies, we will lose this connection with the human aspect that is so important in the end of one's life. Please do not allow non-profit hospices to fail in our community because of corporate greed. Death is already a misunderstood topic, going on to hospice is scary for a lot of our community and if Hospice becomes a part of our system of Capitalism, our community at large will suffer as it's hard to trust someone with your life when you know they will profit off it ending.
thank you.