

Submitter: Donald Alexander
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1003

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed legislation amending Oregon's Death With Dignity Act. Expanding the authority to prescribe lethal medication to non-physicians, such as nurse practitioners and physician associates, risks undermining the rigorous safeguards and expertise that physicians provide in end-of-life care decisions. The current system ensures that only highly trained professionals with deep clinical experience guide patients through this complex and sensitive process. Additionally, halving the 15-day waiting period reduces critical time for patients to reflect, consult with loved ones, and consider alternatives such as hospice or palliative care. The existing waiting period is an essential safeguard against impulsive decisions at a vulnerable time.

Finally, requiring all hospices and hospitals to disclose their participation in assisted suicide to every patient, regardless of diagnosis, could create confusion and distress, especially for those not seeking end-of-life options. Policies should respect patient autonomy and focus on providing individualized information when it is relevant to a patient's care.

For these reasons, I urge you to reject these changes and preserve the careful balance and protections established under Oregon's current law.

Sincerely, Donald Alexander