

Submitter: William Burt  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1003  
To the Committee:

Increasingly, Oregon is becoming hijacked by a culture of death, not life. Those who advocate for life are being marginalized. Whatever happened to the Hippocratic Oath to "do no harm"? I know from personal experience with my mother that some medical staff would rather pull the plug on severely ill patients than let them live with palliative care. By broadening the definition of who can prescribe lethal drugs, this bill makes it far easier to hasten patients' deaths while reducing accountability. Mandating healthcare facilities to promote assisted suicide services steers patients and their families toward death rather than toward life. And reducing the waiting period from 15 days to 7 days makes it much more difficult to assess patients' true condition and the time period if and when they are likely to expire. (How many times have we heard of a doctor's pronouncement that a patient has only a few days to live, when it turns out the individual goes on to live weeks, months or even years longer?)

To make matters worse, SB 1003 makes it easier and faster (and with less accountability) for non-residents to flock to Oregon in order to end their lives. Do we really want our state to become known as the "suicide state"? I think not.

There is no dignity in death, regardless of the cause or the process. What we really need is a "Life with Dignity" act.

Please consign SB 1003 to the ash heap, where it belongs.

Sincerely,

William Burt