

Submitter:

Dr Zachary Inman

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1003

I write today with grave concern, and to express my stern opposition to any proposed expansion of Oregon's assisted suicide laws. As a physician and citizen who values the sanctity of human life and the ethical responsibilities of medical care, I urge you to reconsider the deeply troubling path that such an expansion represents.

Oregon was the first state to legalize physician-assisted suicide, and while proponents argued it would be strictly limited and carefully regulated, the record has proven otherwise. Over time, the criteria have quietly but steadily loosened, and the cultural shift toward accepting suicide as a form of "treatment" for suffering has accelerated. Expanding access further—whether by loosening residency requirements, shortening waiting periods, or broadening eligibility to include non-terminal conditions—only increases the risks to our most vulnerable: the elderly, the disabled, the mentally ill, and those who feel burdensome or hopeless.

Legislators must not confuse compassion with capitulation. True compassion means walking with people through suffering, not eliminating the sufferer. Expanding assisted suicide normalizes the dangerous idea that some lives are no longer worth living—and that killing can be an appropriate medical response to despair. This undermines the trust patients place in their caregivers and threatens the ethical foundations of the medical profession.

I implore you to side against the expansion of assisted suicide in any form. Instead, invest in strengthening palliative care, mental health resources, and hospice support—genuine life-affirming alternatives that uphold human dignity without abandoning hope.

History will remember the decisions made in your chambers. Please choose to affirm life and reject this deeply misguided policy expansion.