

Submitter: Dr. Richard Handley
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1003
Friends:

SB 1003 significantly expands Oregon's Death with Dignity Act in three alarming ways:

Broadens the Definition of Who Can Prescribe Lethal Drugs

Replaces "attending physician" and "consulting physician" with "prescribing provider" and "consulting provider."

This opens the door for nurse practitioners and physician assistants to facilitate assisted suicide.

While recent amendments attempt to narrow this, the terms remain nearly interchangeable — making it easier to further loosen safeguards down the road.

Mandates Promotion of Assisted Suicide by Healthcare Facilities

Hospices, hospitals, and other facilities would be required to disclose in writing the availability of assisted suicide before a patient is admitted. This is also a conscience freedoms violation.

Facilities must also post these policies publicly — in their offices and online.

This will make it far easier for patients — especially those who are vulnerable — to be steered toward death, rather than care.

Shortens the Existing 15-Day Waiting Period

Reduces the waiting period to just 7 days — and in cases of "imminent death," allows lethal drugs to be administered within 48 hours.

This undermines critical time for evaluation and discernment, especially for patients facing mental health challenges, grief, or treatable conditions.

Thank you so much!

Richard Handley, M.D.