

Submitter: Tyler Boone

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1003

Oregon Senate Bill 1003 represents a deeply troubling shift in medical ethics by expanding access to assisted suicide in ways that compromise patient safety, professional integrity, and the foundational principle of "do no harm." By broadening the definition of who may prescribe lethal drugs to include non-physicians, the bill dilutes the rigorous medical oversight necessary for such irreversible decisions. Mandating that healthcare facilities promote assisted suicide as an option infringes on conscience rights and risks normalizing death as a treatment, especially for vulnerable patients who may feel pressured rather than supported. Furthermore, shortening the waiting period to as little as 48 hours in cases of "imminent death" undermines the critical time needed for thorough evaluation, mental health assessment, and the exploration of palliative alternatives. This bill prioritizes expediency over ethical deliberation and patient-centered care, making it a dangerous precedent for the future of medicine.