

Submitter: Abigail Jones
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1003

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you today in opposition to SB 1003, Death with Dignity Act.

We do not want to promote a culture of death. That is what this bill is doing. Using verbiage to broaden who can prescribe these lethal drugs to individuals seeking assisted suicide, which opens the door to loosen safeguards undetected down the road. This bill would also mandate the promotion of assisted suicide by healthcare facilities. This will make it far easier for patients, especially those who are vulnerable, to be steered toward death, rather than care. This may force doctors to go against their own belief system. A doctor's role is to treat people medically. Key work treat, not kill, or mercy kill someone. A doctor's job is to treat and try to help them to live and heal or give them comfort care.

In the Journal of Pain and Symptom Management there is the "Remaining Lifetime After Recognition of Terminal Illness Depends on Diagnosis: A Nationwide Population-Based Cohort Study". The result of the study goes as follows: Of the 11,062 included patients, the median remaining lifetime was 55 days and 37% of the patients died within the first month. The majority suffered from cancer (89%). Patients with a noncancer disease had the shortest remaining lifetime (17 days), considerably shorter than patients with cancer (59 days).

This states that a median remaining lifetime was 55 days and in SB 1003 it states that the waiting period should be reduced to just 7 days and in cases of "imminent death" allowing 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. We do not want people to make a permanent fix for problems that could be temporary. To make it seem like their life is over from a diagnosis especially if it is treatable. People would be making rash decisions that would not be calculated in a clear conscience or mental state. As well as, cases stating "imminent death". God is the only one who knows our time of death and we should not be playing God by allowing people to make the decision to end their life under doctor supervision.

This bill comes from a place where we don't want to see people suffering and in pain. However, both of those things are a part of life. We cannot encourage people to escape problems that are imminent. We can show them that no matter what they are valued, loved, and respected. Not told that because of their diagnosis that they should be discarded, reduced, or given the disillusionment that this is their only

choice.

We want to create a culture of life and care. We want to create a country that is thriving, alive, and supportive of one another. This bill does none of those things.

I urge you to turn down this bill and to work towards building funds into caring for our sick and elderly populations. Death is not something to put in the control of the people.

"Death is not the opposite of life but part of it," - Haruki Murakami. Let God be God, and man be man. Only HE determines the beginning and ending of life on earth.

Sincerely,
Abby Jones