

Submitter: Carolyn Sue Seepe MD-MPH  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1003

This bill is dangerous for the people of Oregon.

This bill removes safeguards that were put in place to protect the citizens of Oregon from being euthanized against their will. There are reasons why the law requires a physician to be the one to provide this service - advanced practice nurses and physician assistants are not qualified to make these decisions. The waiting period in this new legislation is too short to adequately allow a patient to think through the decision.

As a family physician, it is my specialty that is most tasked with this issue. We form long-term relationships with our patients - I have been seeing some of my patients for almost 30 years. It harms this relationship when I am asked to kill my patients (and make no mistake - "physician-assisted suicide" is just that).

In addition, assisted suicide goes against the long tradition of Hippocratic medicine practiced in the United States. We want to support our patients until their natural deaths, not move to end their lives.

As a closing point, each of people who reside in Oregon or come to Oregon for this procedure bear the image of the Creator. Purposefully taking a life is contrary to this view. If you care about the suffering of the people of Oregon, put your energy into supporting the expansion of palliative care.

Thank you for your time.