

29 May 2025

Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

I encourage you to vote NO on SB1003.

SB1003 makes substantial changes to the Physician Assisted Suicide Act.

There are many flaws in this bill.

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2025R1/Downloads/CommitteeMeetingDocument/293081>

From the Bill that summarizes 2023.

- Expands the class of health care providers authorized to prescribe medication to NPs and PAs.
- Reduces waiting periods to 48-hours.
- Modifies witness criteria
- Requires advance disclosure of health care program policies regarding the Oregon Death with Dignity Act

My Observation

- Does not require mental health evaluation, despite the fact that mental health problems are quite common at the end-of-life.

From the 2023 Annual Report: A total of 167 physicians wrote 560 prescriptions during 2023 (1-76 prescriptions per physician; 77% of physicians wrote one or two prescriptions). The number of attending physicians has increased most years (Table 2). Around half of attending and consulting physicians practiced in the Portland metropolitan area (51% and 50%, respectively), while 30% or fewer practiced in the other northwestern counties (Table 3). Three patients (of 560) were referred for psychological or psychiatric evaluation. During 2023, no physicians were

referred by OHA to the Oregon Medical Board for failure to comply with DWDA reporting requirements.

Most important to me is this bill violates the Hippocratic oath, albeit the original form which, in my view has been revised inappropriately from a moral perspective over the last 80 years.

"I will use those dietary regimens which will benefit my patients according to my greatest ability and judgment, and I will do no harm or injustice to them. Neither will I administer a poison to anybody when asked to do so, nor will I suggest such a course. Similarly I will not give to a woman a pessary to cause abortion. But I will keep pure and holy both my life and my art. I will not use the knife, not even, verily, on sufferers from stone, but I will give place to such as are craftsmen therein."

Thank You for your consideration.

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