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**To the Honorable Members of the Oregon Senate,**

On behalf of Coastal Home Health & Hospice in Curry County, I am writing to express our strong opposition to Senate Bill 1003. As an organization deeply committed to compassionate, patient-centered end-of-life care, we are concerned about the serious and far-reaching implications this bill could have on hospice services throughout Oregon.

Hospice care is a vital component of our healthcare system, offering specialized support to individuals nearing the end of life. We provide expert symptom management and strive to uphold dignity and comfort during life's final stages—regardless of whether a patient opts to pursue Death with Dignity. Our mission is to affirm life, viewing death as a natural process without hastening or delaying it.

Additionally, hospice offers grief and bereavement services to family members and caregivers after a loved one passes, support that continues whether or not the patient utilized the Death with Dignity Act. This emotional and spiritual care is central to holistic hospice philosophy, recognizing the deep and lasting impact of loss.

While many hospices already offer neutral, fact-based information about the Death with Dignity Act when appropriate, SB 1003 would require us to proactively raise this topic with every patient. This mandated approach disrupts the careful and individualized conversations we have, potentially overshadowing the core values of hospice care. It risks reframing hospice from a supportive, patient-focused service into a state-mandated conduit for Death with Dignity discussions.

Unfortunately, a common and harmful myth persists that hospice accelerates death. Though evidence repeatedly shows that hospice care can extend life and significantly improve its quality, SB 1003 threatens to reinforce this falsehood. If the public begins to associate hospice uniformly with physician-assisted dying—due to mandated disclosures—trust in our services may erode. Families could become reluctant to engage with hospice, depriving their loved ones of critical pain relief, emotional support, and compassionate care.

We urge you to reflect on the detrimental impact that SB 1003 would have on hospice care delivery and on the public's understanding and acceptance of hospice. For the sake of our patients, their families, and the integrity of end-of-life care in Oregon, we respectfully request that you vote **no** on Senate Bill 1003.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Jamie Daugherty, MBA, BSN, RN

Chief Executive Officer

Coastal Home Health & Hospice

Curry County, Oregon