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On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1003

Assisted suicide does not equal dying with dignity. Regardless of the circumstances - whether the request be due to physical/psychosocial/emotional pain, debilitating conditions, terminal illnesses, or otherwise - the essence of this practice would be a patient asking a provider to kill them. There is not inherent dignity for either the patient or provider in this act. A human being has inherent dignity; asking for death by the hand of another human dishonors the dignity of the patient, and carrying out this act corrupts the dignity of the provider.

Assisted suicide is not palliation. It is not treatment. It is not practicing medicine. It is not help in its truest form. It is not love. It is deliberate shortening of a lifespan, which is directly opposed to virtually every other facet of medicine and healthcare.

Providers should use their education, training, and experience to exhaust every possible option within their specialty/scope to try improving the patient's situation that is causing the mindset that death is more desirable than life. The spiritual element of a patient's whole well-being cannot be ignored. While spiritual health cannot be treated, per se, within the traditional medical model, and spirituality/faith is largely not a tangible part of our reality, it still plays a role. If the belief is in "nothing" or without a creator, then human right can't exist anyway, and there would be no need for this senate bill as there would be no reason to care about a patient's suffering in the first place. If the belief includes a creator or a purposeful origin, then there must be consequences for decisions on life and death. Philosophically this cannot be taken lightly; the hubris of putting ourselves in the seat of the deity to declare when a life can be terminated and then to actively do the terminating, will create a snowball effect first in the world of medicine that will grow across society that can only end in catastrophe.

We're blurring the lines. Some things in this world are not within our rights to want or to do.

Assisted suicide is wrong. Medically, ethically, spiritually.