

Submitter: Kathy Mcneff

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1003

I oppose Senate Bill 1003, which expands Death with Dignity Act (Assisted Suicide).

Reducing the 15-day waiting period to just 48 hours preys upon the vulnerable, physically weak, and elderly. They may be dealing with cognitive difficulties at a susceptible time. The 48-hour wait isn't enough time to provide counseling, therapy, and pain management.

People in a vulnerable condition, often change their minds and "lack capacity to give consent," even if it seems they made a choice. And elderly people frequently express that they are "no use to anyone," but that doesn't mean they wish to die by assisted suicide.

Allowing nurse practitioners and physician assistants, instead of physicians, to prescribe lethal medication opens potential risks. They work under the oversight of physicians and hospitals. Will their right to refuse to participate in the death of another be infringed?

SB1003 would require hospices and hospitals to publicly disclose whether they participate in assisted suicide. It sends a mixed message. People already delay getting palliative care when it would benefit their quality of life. Individuals and families already confuse palliative and hospice care with assisted suicide. Trust erodes. Which means more people will suffer needlessly.

Finally, Oregon has become a "destination" state. Taxpayer money is already spent paying for out-of-state people wanting "suicide services". SB1003 would create a greater economic impact.

I urge you to reject this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration.