

Submitter:

Maria Simili

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1003

I strongly oppose SB 1003 because I value the lives of the elderly, medically fragile, and those struggling with mental illness. We live in a four-generation household. The eldest among us is in her eighties, and the youngest is a preschooler. Every life in our house is valuable. The preschooler benefits greatly from the attention and love of his Great-grandma. His life would not be the same without her. She is s blessing. Our pastor has a daughter with Down's Syndrome. She has developmental delays and many health struggles, but she is the most beloved person in our congregation. Our lives are enriched by every person in our relational circle and their needs provide us an opportunity to demonstrate sacrificial love and to grow in compassion and kindness.

This bill undermines these precious relationships by removing the wait-time for those who consider ending their lives because they are struggling. These people who are suffering and vulnerable need our love, support and compassion. Suicide is never the answer. My best friend is battling stage four cancer, and the outcome is completely unknown. Like all people who are critically ill, she experiences good days and days that she is overwhelmed and struggling. If this bill becomes law, she could reach a low point and decide to end her life when a few days later, she would be doing better and desire to continue living with every fiber of her being. People like my friend need to be protected by law, not made more vulnerable.

I urge you to show true compassion and love for those who are suffering and vote against this bill, which diminishes the dignity and priceless value of the lives of the most vulnerable among us. Thank you.