

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1003

Expansion of assisted suicide further threatens vulnerable patients & undermines ethical care. There is a clear presupposition by supporters of suicide that telling the death is so horrible it is best for dying patients to minimize discomfort by committing suicide. This stance further assumes the dying individual is no longer of any use to the society and they are a drain on the society's resources. They are no longer viewed as fully alive, and become invisible. Reducing wait times & increasing the numbers of people who can assist in the killing, increases opportunities for an impulsive irreversible choice and decreases the opportunities for dying people to work through & transcend their fears & distresses. It also takes away the time that dying patients use for healing relationships, for sharing legacies and teaching the living how to have compassion with the dying and sit through their own discomfort.