

Submitter:

Dr. Christopher Carlson

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1003

As a family physician with 35 years of clinical experience, including hospice, I oppose SB 1003 as it expands Oregon's Death with Dignity Act in alarming ways:

1) By broadening the definition of who can prescribe lethal drugs, opening it up for providers other than physicians.

2) By mandating that healthcare facilities disclose in writing the availability of assisted suicide before a patient is admitted -- which is a conscience violation.

3) By shortening the waiting period -- thus shortening the critical time for thorough evaluation, especially of patients facing mental health challenges, grief or treatable conditions.

Inasmuch as Oregon has removed its residency requirement for assisted suicide, this expansion of the existing law impacts us in Minnesota as well as physicians and patients all around the country.

I encourage you to protect the vulnerable.

I ask you to oppose SB 1003.

Thank you!