

Submitter: Bryan Schmidt

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1003

I am writing to express my deep concern about Senate Bill 1003 and urge you to vote NO on it.

We all want Oregon to be a place where people are treated with dignity and compassion, but I believe this bill could have unintended consequences.

While assisted suicide is often advertised as a “compassionate” option that provides “dignity” to people who are suffering, promoting a “death-on-demand” option for vulnerable people--especially the elderly, disabled, medically complex, and mentally ill—puts them at increased risk for exploitation. It can become a convenient way to eliminate those who are seen as no longer valuable. It’s only a matter of time until that mindset is expanded to include others that are deemed less worthy. It’s not our job to decide who is worthy to live and who is not.

Real dignity and compassion is shown in love, care, and support—not in offering death as a solution. Instead of expanding assisted suicide, we should invest in better palliative care and true support for those who are suffering.

Please vote "No" on Senate Bill 1003.

Sincerely,

Bryan Schmidt