

Submitter: Kent McCarty

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1003

Respectfully, to the Oregon Senate Committee on Rules

I am aware that the Death with Dignity Act is the law. I oppose the basic concept & any provision that would make it easier or quicker for a person to have assistance in their suicide.

Please vote, "No" on SB 1003 for the following reasons:

Flawed definition of quality of life.

The concept of death with dignity looks great on paper, but what it really does in the real world is communicate that if you are less physically useful and more expensive, your better option may be to die.

The number one reason patients are vulnerable to assisted suicide is that they don't want to be a burden on family or loved ones. Pain as a reason to choose assisted suicide is in the minority, and palliative care can address pain in many cases.

Financial Pressure

It follows that financial pressures for assisted suicide could develop. It could be possible to have the insurance cover an assisted suicide, but not health care to continue to treat the disease or provide for end of life palliative care.

Brings up assisted suicide to patients in time of extreme vulnerability.

Tremendous amount of pressure could develop on people who otherwise would not have considered the idea to wonder if that's the best option in a time of pain, weakness, health struggle, transition and changing identity.

Harms Doctor Patient relationship.

Assisted suicide also harms the doctor-patient relationship. Health care is now double minded; in some cases the goal is for you to get better, in other cases, a patient might be asked to consider death.

Finally, while doctors do know probabilities, they do not know the future and a diagnosis can also possibly be wrong.

Thank you very much for considering these ideas. thank you for being our representatives and dedicating your time to governing.