

Submitter:

Dr Seth Ilgenfritz MD

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1003

As an emergency medicine provider who works with locums tenens jobs throughout the country, I oppose this legislation. It is my job to provide emergent care, pain relief, and support to those who are in every stage of life, including those in the terminal stages of disease. This bill removes protections currently in place for this very vulnerable population. Looking at other locations that have expanded medically assisted suicide, such as the Netherlands and Canada, raises grave concerns about the wisdom of pursuing it in Oregon. Over and over again, the definitions of who qualifies for this expands. This opens the door to those struggling with mental health problems, who need our help most, and even minors in some situations.

Unfortunately, the availability of assisted suicide can also create an expectation of choosing suicide among the terminally ill. In short, the terminally ill deserve our full care, not a short cut. We need to protect, support, and treat those who are seriously ill, and this bill removes even more protections from doing this.