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On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1003

The Christian viewpoint on "death on demand," which encompasses practices like euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide, is largely one of opposition. This stance stems from several core Christian beliefs and values:

## 1. Sanctity of Life:

Christians believe that human life is a sacred gift from God, created in His image, and therefore possessing inherent dignity and value.

This sanctity of life extends from conception until natural death.

Only God, as the giver of life, has the authority to determine when life begins and ends.

## 2. Opposition to Taking Innocent Life:

The Sixth Commandment, "You shall not murder" (Exodus 20:13), is interpreted as a prohibition against intentionally ending innocent human life.

Euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide, by their nature, involve the deliberate taking of human life, even with consent.

This act is seen as a violation of God's commandment and an attempt to usurp His authority over life and death.

## 3. Emphasis on Palliative Care and Compassion:

While opposing euthanasia and assisted suicide, Christians emphasize the importance of providing palliative care to alleviate suffering and improve the quality of life for those facing terminal illness.

Compassion, as exemplified in the story of the Good Samaritan, calls for caring for and supporting those who are suffering, rather than actively ending their lives.

## 4. Trusting in God's Sovereignty:

Christians believe that life's length and circumstances are ultimately in God's hands, and He has a plan for each individual.

Resorting to "death on demand" is seen as a lack of trust in God's timing and purposes, even in suffering.

5. Avoiding Over-zealous Treatment and Affirming Death with Dignity:

It is important to note that while Christians oppose euthanasia and assisted suicide, many acknowledge that there may be situations where extraordinary or disproportionate treatments that prolong the dying process are not obligatory, particularly when the burdens outweigh the potential benefits.

Allowing death to occur naturally, while providing comfort and care, can be viewed as a way to affirm death with dignity, according to the Christian faith.

In summary: The Christian viewpoint on "death on demand" generally emphasizes the sanctity of life, the prohibition against taking innocent life, the importance of palliative care, trust in God's sovereignty, and the potential for a dignified death through natural processes.