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To Whom It May Concern:

I am board certified in both internal medicine and pediatrics, and my practice is geared towards persons with disabilities. I also train medical students and residents to care for persons with disabilities.

Physician-assisted suicide is a threat to people with disabilities because it removes some of the explicit and implicit support for them by introducing the possibility of suicide. Many of my patients require large amounts of societal and family support and resources. I can visualize a situation in which they would feel an obligation to undergo euthanasia to no longer pose a burden.

For many generations our society has whole-heartedly supported weaker members of society. Many of the leaders in society are the physicians who care for weaker or less fortunate people, not only those with disabilities but also those struggling with chronic mental or physical illness. I would hate for physicians in my state to be asked to end the lives of such people, instead of trying to help them function despite their limitations.

Please vote "no" for Oregon SB 1003.

Sincerely,

Nathan F. Bradford MD