

Submitter: Evan Roth
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1003

Hello committee members,

The state's job should be to help people live longer, healthier lives, not to make it easier for people to end their lives.

I'm writing to you today because I've seen firsthand how end-of-life decisions can affect families, and I'm really worried about the changes they're proposing in SB 1003. Assisted suicide doesn't just affect the person who chooses it—it puts a huge emotional and moral burden on their family. Research and real-life cases show that vulnerable people, like those who are facing elder abuse or subtle family pressure, may feel forced to make this irreversible step, which takes away their true autonomy.

And family will likely feel guilty, sad, and scared that they didn't do enough to care for their loved one. This can break trust and leave lasting scars, especially if families feel pressured by these unbelievably short timelines and regret the life-ending decisions that are being rushed.

I'm especially concerned about the idea of shortening waiting periods, as the bill proposes. Depression and other mental health problems can change a person's perspective, making suffering feel impossible when there's always hope for recovery!

Studies from other places with fewer safeguards show that people with mental health conditions, like depression and dementia, often seek assisted suicide because they're lonely or hopeless, not because they're in physical pain. If we rush this process, we risk allowing people to make permanent decisions during moments of despair, without enough time for a proper mental health evaluation or palliative care. I believe we have a responsibility to protect vulnerable people and make sure these life-and-death choices are not made by medical professionals who are forced to do harm.

Thank you for your time and consideration.