

Senate Committee On Rules
Senate Bill 1003 A
Monday, June 2, 2025
Sister Veronica Schueler, FSE
Director, Oregon Catholic Conference



Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Bonham, and Members of the Committee,

The Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon strives to transform Oregon into a sanctuary where every human being is deeply valued and protected. We believe in protecting the inherent dignity of every human person, born and unborn. We also believe that all humans, at the end of their lives, deserve dignity and adequate health care to aid them in leaving this world. Senate Bill 1003A inherently devalues human beings at the end-of-life stage. SB 1003A is not the solution to an under-resourced healthcare system. Vulnerable patients, the elderly, and the disabled should not be influenced or steered towards ending their lives because society treats them as a burden.

SB 1003A is not the answer for Oregonians for the following reason:

- With the 2023 removal of Oregon’s “death with dignity” residency requirement, under SB 1003A, anyone in the country could be prescribed lethal drugs from an Oregon provider.
- It requires providers to list and provide their policy for patients to participate in the Oregon Death With Dignity Act, which will necessarily have the secondary effect of influencing where a patient receives care. This “notice requirement” is an awareness campaign imposed on providers, which unnecessarily influences patients who may not have a terminal illness or are at the end-of-life stage. Forcing health care facilities to disclose their assisted suicide policy will push patients towards death and not the health care they need. It will also discourage patients from seeking the health care they could receive because of concerns about the providers’ policies.
- The waiting period will be shortened from 15 to 7 days. The doctor can also waive the waiting period if he/she determines that the patient will die before the end of the waiting period and the patient requests it. This further erodes the few protections that exist and simultaneously pushes the vulnerable hastily towards death.

Oregon was the first state in the Union to legalize physician-assisted suicide, and over the years, the protections Oregonians voted for have been whittled away. Physician-assisted suicide already has support in the current legislative framework. SB 1003A will put unnecessary on both patients and providers to participate in the Oregon Death With Dignity Act, whether they want to or not.

VOTE NO on SB 1003A.

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