



Saint Alphonsus



Trinity Health
Lewiston, ME

Date: June 2, 2025

Submitter: Corey Surber, Director of Advocacy

On Behalf of: Saint Alphonsus Medical Centers, Ontario and Baker City

Measure: SB 1003

Members of the Senate Committee on Rules:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding our concerns with Senate Bill 1003A.

As amended, Senate Bill 1003 would require a “health care facility” to have a process in place to disclose in writing the facility's policy regarding the ability to participate in the Oregon Death with Dignity Act. As defined in the amendment, our hospital facilities would be included, as it references “hospital, clinic or nursing home.” Expanding the definition of health care facility is a significant broadening of the law, which would require patient notifications that would be irrelevant, confusing and even stressful for most patients, and would add unnecessary administrative burden. If the Death with Dignity Act becomes part of every patient encounter, it would cause unneeded anxiety and could cause patients to question their care or prognosis.

We also have concerns with the proposal to shorten the waiting period between a patient's initial oral request and the issuance of a prescription from 15 days to 7 days. Patients facing end-of-life challenges have complex emotional, social, physical, and spiritual needs, for which we offer a wide range of services, emphasizing palliative care while respecting the natural process of dying. Abbreviating the time available to address a patient’s emotional and spiritual concerns may inadvertently cause harm.

Ultimately, we have concerns that highlighting the availability of the Death with Dignity Act may unintentionally encourage some patients to consider that as an option, contrary to the guidance of the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Healthcare that we uphold.