

Submitter: Linda Middlekauff
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1003

To the members of the Senate Committee on Rules:

Your vote will be taking place momentarily, and I would like to strongly oppose SB 1003 A's amendments to the Death w Dignity Act. The 3 major changes to the bill (including nurse practitioners & physician assistants as authorized prescribers, decreasing the waiting period from the time of request until a prescription is written from 15 to 7 days or, in cases of "imminent death", only 48 hours, & requiring almost all health care facilities to educate about the option of assisted suicide will most likely lead to many mistakes, abuses, & coercion of very vulnerable individuals.

Research has shown for many decades that the most common reasons for requesting PAS (DwD) include patients feeling like a burden, being depressed without being given an opportunity for treatment, and even pressure from those around them including family, friends, medical professionals, insurance companies, etc., all of whom may have ulterior motives, not the best interest of the patient in mind. In fact, the original law "required" consultation with a psychiatrist or psychologist. That's all well and good, but if the state keeps not record of this requirement, what's the purpose of the requirement?

In this iteration of Death w Dignity, such deaths are to be a matter of state record but will not be disclosed to the public

In spite of this research being replicated many times, our state continues to lag behind in mental health services. As a recently retired nurse who fought against the original bills to legalize PAS in OR, we still lag behind in options for palliative care, mental health treatment & it's availability as well as the awareness of hospice care by individuals, families, & believe it or not, physicians..

SB 1003 A if passed will make things even worse. Please Vote NO on this egregious bill. Thank you!