

Submitter:

Warren Foote

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1003

I oppose SB 1003. Hospice care is designed to relieve suffering for patients, not to hasten their demise. This bill will erode the trust placed in them by family members who must make difficult decisions, concerning their loved ones, or to help them make the decision to enter into hospice care. We faced this with my elderly parents who have subsequently died a natural death while under hospice care. We would not have agreed to this had we entertained the possibility that hospice would have taken steps to intentionally end their life through medication.

We face soaring rates of suicide among our veterans, teens and young adults. and elderly. The elderly often are isolated, and feel that they have become useless burdens to their family, friends, and community. They need compassion and care, and need to be able to trust hospice as a source of compassion, and not termination. Let us not become a suicide magnet as a state,