

April 6, 2015

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Sen. Floyd Prozanski, Chair  
Sen. Jeff Kruse, Vice-Chair  
Sen. Ginny Burdick  
Sen. Sara Geiser  
Sen. Kim Thatcher

From: Woody English, MD, MMM

Re: SB 193

Thank you for revisiting the statutory requirement for the Oregon Advance Directive form. This was cutting edge work when we created it 21 years ago. It has contributed to Oregon's reputation for excellence in the care we give our neighbors and community at the end of life.

After 2 decades, this reconsideration is timely because:

- The delivery of health care now has many more options, possibilities and moving parts. In a crisis, clinical events seem irresolvable and chaotic to the uninitiated. Navigating this uncertain world requires guiding principles (e.g. 5 Wishes Form) rather than explicit instructions.
- The Oregon POLST paradigm has been phenomenally successful in shaping decision-making during the last months of life. The Oregon Advance Directive has not been a strong enough partner to support the POLST process. As a consequence the POLST is being over-utilized to the detriment of good care. A good Advance Directive should keep up with the times. It needs to integrate with the POLST and with the Electronic Medical Record.

What we need now in our Advance Directive is:

- A process that highlights expression of beliefs and values rather than a structure that focuses on specific decision points.
- A stronger focus on wisely choosing and training a health care representative and perhaps less emphasis on checking boxes.
- An expectation that someone will visit and revisit these issues over time because people change their minds on things. The experience of living with an illness can alter one's perspective.

The statutory requirement for the Oregon Advance Directive form has prevented the flexibility needed to keep up with rapid developments in the delivery of health care services.

SB 193 will give us the flexibility to be more sensitive to the changing times so we can continue to provide the best care possible to the citizens of our State.

Thank you on behalf of myself and on behalf of those whom I have and continue to care for.

Woody English, MD, MMM