

Dear Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

Below is what I wrote to the Oregonian this morning, which I hope gets printed, on this SB494 Advanced Directive bill. In addition, I have two more concerns.

SB494 Advanced Directive is anything but

Senate Bill 494 is scheduled for a committee hearing and a vote this Thursday. I am alarmed by what it says.

It repeatedly states throughout that the Advanced Directive is for "expressing the principal's *values and beliefs*...and the principal's *preferences*".

If you find the trinary check box choices they give you for various end of life decisions not to your liking, you can add a supplement to it, but know this, "Attachments may include a description of *what you would like to happen*." This is not a Directive at all, it is a suggestion.

Worst of all, this will be the only legal form possible to be used in Oregon, so you can't make your own. Did you catch that? You *can't* make your own.

"...An advanced directive remains in effect with respect to an anatomical gift...after the principal dies." So keeping them from parting out your body becomes just a preference too.

This was introduced last session and failed for good reason. I decry those coming up with this ruthless, heartless, bill that literally guts you and your ability to direct, not *wish*, your end of life decisions.

Two more concerns.

One, I am tired of the Governor being able to appoint people to various committees. It gives the Governor too much power. He or she can pick people opposed to a majority of Oregonian's views and pretend that they represent us. Worst yet, there is no way to unelect them.

Two, there are various words that have implications that are ill-thought out. I can enumerate them further if you would like to do, so please ask. In the end, literally, I want ME to live, and this Bill interferes with that. This bill is not amendable except by completely undoing everything in it. The forms would have to have our

words be force of law (directives), not a wish list, and all the wording would have to change and various terms used would need to be much defined. (Example: "make health care decisions for me if I can't SPEAK for myself." Some are unable to "speak" for themselves, but they can still "communicate". And many other dangerous examples...)

If anything, Advance Directive forms supplied by the state should be Optional to use, at best, and devoid of making our liberties into mere desires.

This bill is why writer's sometimes pull the page out of the type writer and say, "I need to start afresh," because, one, it just went down a wrong road, and, two, you can't adjust the direction by changing words here and there. It's like trying to take an abortion bill and make it pro-life or vice versa. You just can't get here from there.

Dunk this and start over, please.

Bill Northrup
939 Laurelhurst Drive
Eugene OR 97402