

Dear Committee Chair and members of the Rules Committee,

I have a strenuous objection to a particular aspect of the Advanced Care Directive bill with respect to authorizing ANY Agency appointed person to designate the withholding of hydration from an individual.

Death is a reality none of us can avoid. However, it is morally wrong to legalize a government representative to develop and approve a care plan that results in excruciating pain. To make torture of a human being legal, in any context, is worse than executing a criminal using cruel and unusual methods.

My medical state is Stage IV Ovarian cancer. Cancer cells migrated to surround one lung. Secondary cancers to the lung can produce confusion and render a person completely dependent on others due to mental incapacitation. It is a real possibility I may experience that result as I approach the end of my life.

**It terrifies me that ANY legislator would knowingly pass a bill that places decision making authority in the scope of operations of the Oregon Health Authority. That would be legalizing the intentional torture of vulnerable persons. One of those people could be me.**

**To reduce the value of a human life to a status below the concern for an abused animal or criminal facing a death penalty is societal rot that can not be excused.**

I implore you to work with all committees and the President of the Senate to redirect assigned committees to and the bill to amend the bill to prevent the intentional denial of water to a person who can not advocate for themselves.

I thank you for your time and consideration of my concerns.

Respectfully,

Christine Ruck  
Lebanon Oregon HD11/SD6