

Hello,

I am a Registered Nurse in Oregon and I strongly oppose HB 4135. In my practice, I have had the ethical dilemma of caring for an elderly demented patient who's spouse refused this patient both food and water. There was no written evidence that this patient had previously chose this, rather it was a decision based on finances of the spouse.

As a Registered Nurse, I take this revision of the Nightengale pledge written by Beverley O Malley:

*"As I enter the nursing profession I pledge to:*

*Use all the knowledge, skills, and understanding that I possess when providing professional nursing care.*

*Deliver nursing care non-judgmentally and to all those who require it, to the best of my ability.*

*Refrain from any action which might be harmful to the quality of life or health of those I care for.*

*Treat each client with respect.*

*Hold in professional confidence all the personal information entrusted to me.*

*Keep my professional knowledge and skills at the highest level give my support and cooperation to all members of the health care team.*

*contribute to the advancement of the nursing profession.*

*Maintain my nursing practice in accordance with the professional nursing standards required for my profession."*

To watch a patient thirst or starve to death can take up to 2 weeks, this is a horrible thing to witness, and considered a \criminal act when done against one's wishes and outside of a hospital. Should a place for healing, become an institution of death? I believe not. The fact that this bill has reared it's head again is a shame to our society, that we would put into law the killing of the most vulnerable among us.

Eva Small