

Oregon Catholic Conference

Opposition to HB 4135 – Talking Points

1. The Oregon Catholic Conference is concerned about protecting the dignity of each and every person, especially those who are vulnerable.
2. Current Oregon law surrounding the Advance Directive for Health Care helps protect Oregonians from being denied food and water by a third party.
3. HB 4135 makes changes to the law that could result in eliminating some of these protections.
4. For example, Section 8, subsection 6 of the proposed law, seems to eliminate the provision that Advance Directive forms validly executed in other states would be “subject to the laws of this state.”
5. In addition, the proposed changes to the Advance Directive form itself could allow a health care representative to make a life-ending decision for a person (who is not in an end of life condition) without their explicit consent.
6. The Oregon Catholic Conference is disappointed that this proposed legislation, which has been very controversial, is being put forward during a short legislative session. It deals with critical issues of life, death, and decision-making that should not be rushed.

Added point: Remark as to why OCC and Providence are on different sides of this bill:

Providence rightly supports the creation of an advance directive form that is more user-friendly and will allow individuals to better express a values-based approach to their end of life care. The Oregon Catholic Conference supports that vision, too – but not at the expense of removing protections currently in place for vulnerable Oregonians.

Submitted by Rep. Vial
on behalf of Roger Martin
at his request