

To the Committee Members:

My mother-in-law had dementia for approximately 8 years and despite being in a state of cognitive decline, literally unable to make any decisions, she lived her life to its natural end. Had this bill, HB 4135, been in place during her final years we would have been even more pressured than we were at that time to let her refuse, in her confused state, the nutrition and fluids necessary to keep her in relatively good health. I watched as one of her friends slowly died because a family member agreed to withhold treatment & hydration. It was a horrible and prolonged death.

I am strongly opposed to this bill and having read it in its entirety it is clear to me it equates to a death squad for the most vulnerable and confused. It also throws the door wide open for insurance companies, Medicaid and otherwise to hasten the demise of those vulnerable individuals as what they will see as a 'cost saving' move. This is a very bad bill!

I spent most of my life in Oregon, 31 years in Canby, and while currently & temporarily living out of state I want to think when I return it will not be to face a bill such as this.

Karen Duchien