



Date: March 7, 2019

Re: Testimony in Support of the -2 Amendment to Senate Bill 178

Senate Committee on Human Services

Dear Chair Gelsler, Vice-Chair Heard and members of the Committee,

**Oregon Right to Life Supports the -2 Amendment to Senate Bill 178.**

We are thankful to the committee and the Senate for providing an opportunity to amend Senate Bill 178. We also wanted to thank the proponents of the bill for engaging us in this process. We are also thankful to legislative counsel for working quickly on the amendment.

Oregon Right to Life works towards the legal protection for all innocent human life from conception to natural death. This includes ensuring incapable persons, no matter what stage of life they are in, are equally protected under the law.

**Omitting the precise subsection reference in Senate Bill 178 creates ambiguity in the law.**

If the bracketed language in Senate Bill 178 remains omitted it will be unclear what subsections of the law are to be followed. When there is ambiguity, then there is room for multiple interpretations. When the law creates space for varying opinions and interpretations, then the law permits less protection for incapable persons in one of the four statutory end-of-life conditions.

**Restoring the bracketed language in Senate Bill 178 will eliminate ambiguity in the law.**

Restoring “subsections (2) and (3)” to page 1, line 8 will eliminate the ambiguity of what “in accordance with this section” means. Referencing the subsections that must be followed provides clarity to all who read and interpret this area of the law. When the law is precise, then all incapable persons are treated equally under the law.

Oregon Right to Life asks you to support the -2 amendment to Senate bill 178.