

Providence Health & Services
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Portland, OR 97213
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April 5, 2019

The Honorable Floyd Prozanski
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee
State Capitol
Salem, Oregon

Re: SB 579 – Expansion of Death with Dignity Act

Dear Senator Prozanski and members of the committee,

On behalf of Providence Health & Services, thank you for the opportunity to outline our concerns regarding Senate Bill 579. Our opposition is grounded in our basic values of respect for the sanctity of life and compassionate care for dying and vulnerable persons.

Providence is an innovative health care system that strives to offer compassionate, high quality and state-of-the-art care for our patients. We believe that people are stewards of their own lives, but we may not unduly prolong nor hasten the natural process of dying. We know that our patients facing end-of-life issues have complex physical, social, emotional and spiritual needs. To address these needs, we offer a comprehensive array of services, including a focus on palliative care while allowing natural death.

Our hospice and palliative care teams, chaplains and counselors address pain and end-of-life suffering in a holistic way. Our services provide treatment for emotional pain, depression, fear and spiritual distress. We also work to provide support that ensure our patients spend their final months, days and years in comfort and preserving the dignity of the patient as they manage their end-of-life journey. And these services are provided across the entire continuum of care, including hospitals, clinics and our patients' homes. For these reasons, we continue to advocate for increased support and resources for hospice and palliative care programs that provide compassionate, pain-relieving comfort and care for those who are at the end of life.

We respectfully request that the committee oppose Senate Bill 579 and join us in advocating to ensure patients are comfortable and supported through end of life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Serban".

Tim Serban
Chief Mission Integration Officer
Providence Health & Services - Oregon Region