

Mr./Ms. Chairperson ; Members of the Committee:

The euthanasia laws are far more dangerous than anyone realizes, and for reasons other than morality or religion. The reason is that fundamentally they allow, if not encourage, doctors to kill their patients.

At the very least, no one who is Board licensed to practice medicine should ever be permitted, much less encouraged, to end a patient's life. Permitting this as a medical procedure communicates to physicians in general that it is acceptable to kill their patients as a "final measure" of some sort - e.g., when they run out of ideas, run out of patience, don't want to waste "resources" on an elderly patient or someone with a supposedly "terminal" disease, want to "triage" a patient in favor of someone else they prefer to save, or just don't have "room in their schedule" for the patient any more. The list goes on, but this is what is in the Pandora's box - physicians will start regarding euthanasia as just another medical procedure, and will thereby become much less focused on their traditional commitment to saving lives.

Strangely, I learned this when dealing with veterinarians, and experiencing how readily almost any veterinarian will suggest killing a pet. That is where this pernicious policy is headed - and particularly with the socialist Left now in control of our State Government.

Dave Simmons
Dallas, Oregon
dspolitical@gmail.com
503.243.1399