

Submitter: Robin Lee
On Behalf Of: myself
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB891

I write in opposition to SB891, which proposes loosening guidelines and restrictions on who may prescribe meds to kill a patient ("providers" with less than an MD), modifies options in the delivery of said meds (the original wording seems just as protective as the expanded verbiage -I don't see the value of the changes), abbreviates the waiting period, and eliminates the residency requirement. I have never understood why legislators ever initiated 'death with dignity' legislation in the first place. In my mind, palliative care is the best care--the most compassionate care--for persons thought to be dying. It's also the most considerate of the families involved in losing a loved-one. The 15-day waiting period is PRUDENT, protecting the patient from a rush to judgment born of anxiety, and possibly misinformation, and allowing the family time to council and console their loved-one. No reason to shorten the waiting period.

No good purpose is served by waiving the residency requirement. Oregon is a nice state to live in. Emphasis on "live". It could be better. We should focus on reducing fire, conserving water (keep the dams!) so our lands would be more beautiful. But this bill isn't addressing "living". That's what is wrong with it. Government should not deign to prescribe manipulating dying. Life is precious. It is EMBARRASSING to think of Oregon becoming a "death destination". Ugh! We can be better. Please scrap this bill. Put out legislation to END ASSISTED SUICIDE ALTOGETHER!