



MEMORANDUM

To: Senator Prozanski, Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary
Senator Thatcher, Vice-Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Courtni Dresser, Oregon Medical Association

Date: March 6, 2023

Re: Testimony on SB 891

The Oregon Medical Association (OMA) is a nonprofit association that represents over 7,800 physicians and physician assistants. The OMA continues to support a neutral position on Oregon's Death With Dignity Act.

Our understanding was that the law was intended to be amended in this legislative session to comply with a settlement agreement in the federal case of *Gideonse v. Brown*. The terms of the settlement agreement were limited to the removal of the residency requirement in the Act.

While we continue to have concerns about the lack of good legal information about how the removal of the residency requirement could expose non-resident patients, their families, and their attending health care professionals to unintended liability outside the state, we will continue to monitor that issue.

The bill goes beyond the residency change contemplated by the settlement agreement and proposes other changes including changing the definition of attending physician and what we had understood were safeguards in the original Act around waiting periods.

We would urge the committee to obtain sufficient input from clinical and legal experts about the impact of the potential changes in the law.

Thank you.