

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1003

These changes are reasonable, and if supported, as they seem to be, by Compassion and Choices, they are more reasonable and actually more restrictive than many of us believe they should be. Those of us who have experienced a family member dying slowly and painfully of cancer or another disease, or incapacitated with no hope of recovery and independence know how horrible dying from some diseases can be at the end of life.

While our country fights the reality of more people seeking to die on their own terms at the end of their life, other countries are moving far ahead of even Oregon's Death With Dignity law. Meanwhile, more information is now available on the Internet for "self deliverance", and more people who don't qualify for Oregon's law are probably resorting to more risky and more distressing methods; risky for themselves (not succeeding in a pleasant death), but also far less pleasant for their loved ones.

Oregon's law allows people making a clearly conscious choice for a "better exit" at the end of life, to die with loved ones present and in a peaceful way. Oregon's 28 year old law has shown that the many fears of those opposing it from the start, of people being pressured into using it, etc, have not been realized.

I believe that if more Oregonians knew of this hearing and these proposed changes, they would have provided their own testimonies in support. I just heard about this bill by accident yesterday. There has been little public media about it.