

**DEB PATTERSON
STATE SENATOR/SENADORA ESTATAL
DISTRICT 10/DISTRITO 10**



OREGON STATE SENATE/SENADO DEL ESTADO DE OREGON

February 26, 2026

Chair Bowman, Vice Chair Elmer, and Vice Chair Pham,

For the record, my name is Deb Patterson. I am the State Senator for District 10, which includes South and West Salem, parts of Four Corners, Monmouth, and Independence. I am here today in support of SB 1575A, which is about ensuring hospice patients get the high-quality and compassionate care they deserve.

Hospice is about providing comfort and dignity to people who are terminally ill. The first hospices in the United States started as small nonprofit programs in the 1970s and 80s. They relied heavily on volunteer support and charitable giving to care for people at the end of their lives. But today, mega-corporations have figured out how to game the system and profit from the dying.

When bad actors take over a local hospice, they maximize profits by reducing staff and services, and they spend less on patient care. This leads to understaffing and reduced quality of care—leaving vulnerable patients without the services they need.

There have also been reports of fraud in other states, where unscrupulous hospices enroll patients without their knowledge and bill for services that were never provided. Neighboring states like Washington, California and Nevada have already passed stronger protections. Without more safeguards here, bad actors may be drawn to Oregon next.

SB 1575A addresses this by ensuring Oregon hospices provide high-quality care. The bill establishes minimum qualifications for hospice administrators and medical directors, requiring criminal background checks on new hospice owners, and prohibiting people with histories of health care fraud and abuse from owning a hospice in Oregon.

The measure also protects the integrity of Oregon's licensing process by putting a pause on new hospice licenses, until the Oregon Health Authority finishes rulemaking on these enhanced safeguards. The bill includes exceptions for existing licensees expanding their service areas, licensed Oregon healthcare or long-term care providers adding hospice services for their patients, and applicants seeking to serve underserved areas or underserved populations.

SB 1575A was developed through a months-long workgroup involving hospices providers across Oregon. The measure has bipartisan sponsorship and is endorsed by both for-profit and non-profit hospice agencies, as well as the Oregon Hospice and Palliative Care Association, the Oregon Association for Home Care, LeadingAge Oregon, and AARP.

People enter hospice at the most vulnerable time in their lives, when they cannot advocate for themselves. I respectfully urge your support for SB 1575A, to prevent bad actors from taking advantage of vulnerable patients.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deb Patterson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

State Senator Deb Patterson