

Submitter: Linda De Sitter  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1575

My name is Linda De Sitter, and I am a physician who specializes in hospice and palliative care. For 15 years, I worked as a medical director in hospice and palliative care programs; and now - in my semi-retirement - I work part-time as a hospice physician and I volunteer in hospice and palliative care education and advocacy work. I am writing in support of SB 1575.

Hospice is a program reserved for people in their last months of life. Our focus is to maximize a person's quality of life for however much time they have left. This requires a skilled interdisciplinary team to manage a person's symptoms and suffering as they and their chosen family move through this sacred time of life. I am truly honored to be a physician doing this work.

On the other hand, as noted in the one-pager, the national hospice community has seen an increasing number of bad actors in our field; entities that provide minimal and inferior hospice services in order to increase their stockholder profits. States across the country, including California and Washington, have put in place stricter licensing and oversight laws and some of these bad actors have been shut down. However, there is a real danger that these bad actors will move to places like Oregon where the state laws are still relatively lax. That is why I strongly support SB 1575 which will tighten Oregon's licensing processes and oversight and make it more difficult for bad actors to re-locate here and take advantage of people in their most vulnerable times.

In addition, as a longtime health administrator, I know how important collecting, tracking, and analyzing data is for maintaining and improving quality of services. Currently, Oregon is not focused on using quality data in the hospice licensing process. SB 1575 will provide a pause period for the licensing of new hospices, allowing Oregon to write rules that include using quality data to improve the licensing process.

I ask you to support SB 1575. Thank you.