

From: karen [mailto:karen@ortl.org]
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 12:09 PM
To: HHC Exhibits <HHC.Exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov>
Subject: Testimony in opposition to HB 4135
Importance: High

My mother-in-law had dementia for approximately 8 years and despite being in a state of cognitive decline and literally unable to make any decisions she lived her life to it's natural end. Had this bill, HB 4135 been in place during her final years we would have been even more pressured than we were at that time to let her refuse, in her confused state, the nutrition and fluids necessary in keeping her in relative good health. I watched as one of her friends slowly died because her family member agreed to withhold treatment and hydration and it was a horrible and prolonged death.

I am opposed to this bill and having read it in it's entirety it is clear to me it equates to a death squad for the most vulnerable and confused. It also throws open the doors for insurance companies, Medicaid and otherwise to hasten the demise of those vulnerable individuals as what they will see as a 'cost saving' move. This is a very bad bill!