

Senate Judiciary Committee,

HB 4135 would be a great bill if it were dealing with getting rid of old or defective machinery. It makes the disposal process less cumbersome for the mechanics with far less regulation or hoops to jump through.

However, HB 4135 is not dealing with machinery. It is dealing with irreplaceable human life. It is attempting to streamline the process of ending life by removing some of the important safeguards put in place to protect people who need assistance with some basic needs. These are people who are vulnerable to being taken advantage of and who should be able to expect protection by the government from such dangerous practices. However, if HB 4135 passes, the government would be in fact sanctioning such abhorrent practices.

Society as a whole despises scammers who take advantage of the elderly or infirmed and cheat them out of their life savings. HB 4135 equally takes advantage of the vulnerable and seeks to deprive them of their very life, by withholding even the most basic of human needs - food and water. Such deprivation is not even legally permitted toward death row inmates or the most hardened criminals. Such behavior would even be considered cruel to a pet. Yet the great state of Oregon is seriously considering allowing such depraved behavior to our elderly and disabled who merely require simple assistance to live? HB 4135 should not be thinkable in civilized society.

And for those individuals who think HB 4135 is not such a big deal, besides being compassionally challenged, these people might think differently if it were they or their loved ones falling prey to the removal of the current basic safeguards.

Finally, these protections need to remain in the realm of elected officials who have accountability to the voters, not some separate unaccountable board.

HB 4135 is disgraceful. It is dangerous. It is deceptive. It benefits the bullies and the cost cutters rather than the weak.

Please protect the dignity of Oregonians and their trust in health care providers and government regulators, by voting No on HB 4135.

With respect,
Joanne Appelgate
Beaverton, OR