

Testimony in Opposition to HB 5898
March 16, 2019

I am submitting written testimony in **opposition** to HB 5898, a bill regarding assisted suicide. There are many reasons to oppose this bill including evidence that legalization of assisted suicide increases suicide in general. As a parent of teens, I view any law that could erode strong societal values against suicide as totally unacceptable. We are better off expanding other ways to help people at the end of their lives including better access to home care and education of doctors about palliative care.

Unfortunately, no level of “safeguards” will prevent legal expansion to growing groups of people who feel that there is no alternative to their suffering, and will also expand to other groups of people who will view suicide as more socially acceptable. With this, I leave you with the unsettling statistics from Oregon regarding teen suicide . . . it has expanded considerably more than the national average since they legalized assisted suicide, doubling between 2006 and 2015.

- Oregon legalized assisted suicide in 1997.
- By 2007, Oregon's suicide rate was 35% above the national average.
- By 2010, Oregon's suicide rate was 41% above the national average.
- By 2012, Oregon's suicide rate was 42% above the national average.
- By 2014, Oregon's suicide rate was 43.1% higher than the national average.

Please find more information by visiting

<http://alexschadenberg.blogspot.com/2019/03/oregons-teen-suicide-rate-has-doubled.html>

Thank you.
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