

**Sara A. Gelser Blouin**

**State Senator**

District 8



**Oregon State Senate**

Vote Explanation: HB 2279

HB 2279 will allow people outside the state of Oregon to travel to the state in order to participate in physician assisted suicide. While I appreciate the right of individuals to make their own choices about end of life, I remain sensitive to concerns raised by many in the disability community that aging and disabled people may feel compelled to select to end their lives because they believe they are a burden on their loved ones, or because they are coerced to do so.

During the pandemic, we saw disturbing instances of aging and disabled people pushed into signing POLST forms or other end of life directives in what they believed was a condition of care. In other cases, individuals were denied access to ventilators, PPE, tests, hospital admission and other necessary services on the basis of their disability or age.

For these reasons, I am cautious about any expansion of the assisted suicide law. This is why I cast a NO vote on this measure.

*Sara*

Senator Sara Gelser Blouin