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## **REPRESENTATIVES**

### **Carl Wilson, Sherrie Sprenger and E. Werner Reschke**

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#### **Representatives Carl Wilson, Sherrie Sprenger and E. Werner Reschke stand against bills that would expand Oregon's physician-assisted suicide**

SALEM, Oregon – Nothing is more precious than the gift of life. We must value and preserve it. There are two bills before the Oregon Legislature that run counter to protecting life – House Bill 2217 and Senate Bill 579.

HB 2217 puts Oregonians at risk at a time when they are most vulnerable. The bill not only widens a loophole in the state's physician-assisted suicide law but makes it easier for elderly Oregonians to be manipulated into requesting a lethal prescription and coerced into prematurely ending their lives. Rep. Carl Wilson (R-Grants Pass), Rep. Sherrie Sprenger (R-Scio) and Rep. E. Werner Reschke (R-Klamath Falls) urge defeat of both bills.

Taking one's life at any age is distressing, but HB 2217 would make it easier for seniors to make a fatal decision by expanding the method of delivery of the lethal medication. Quite possibly, another person could participate in the administration of the medication in what voluntarily or involuntarily results in euthanasia. The bill allows for other open-ended ways to give medication. Any new option may result in harm or errors in medication administration. Seniors often put their trust in a variety of people. When that trust is violated by caregivers who are neither humane nor dignified, the results are tragic. HB 2217 will further the potential of elder abuse and mercy killings.

"For the last months, I've seen an aged, beloved family member approach the end of life bravely. Steadily losing cognitive abilities, seemingly absent on some days, rallying on others. On hospice, off hospice, and back on. It is easy for me to see how one would consider this life to be of little remaining value. Yet, out of the mist of confusion, she emerges at times to correctly and joyfully identify her loved ones. She is not done living," said Rep. Wilson.

SB 579 throws out existing protections and creates a fast-track request scheme for people who are believed to be at the very end of life. Once more, a loophole will put our most vulnerable citizens at the risk of being coerced into ending their lives. SB 579 would remove a 15-day waiting period if a person is very near the end of their life. Ultimately, this heightens the likelihood of a bad actor persuading a dying person to take the deadly drugs within a matter of days or even the same day a prescription is requested.

"I believe in the sanctity of life from conception to the final breath," said Rep. Reschke.

Sometimes a dying person will rally temporarily, giving time for a son or daughter who lives thousands of miles away to arrive and say their goodbyes. We should do everything we can to promote of culture of life in Oregon by fighting against SB 579 and HB 2217.

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