



Kate Lieber



VOTE YES ON HB2362

PROTECT HIGH-QUALITY, AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE FOR EVERY OREGONIAN

The cost of healthcare has become increasingly out-of-reach for many families in our state. In just four short years, the amount Oregonians pay for their care increased nearly 29 percent — faster than the rest of the nation.

One contributing factor? Consolidation. Decades of nonpartisan academic research has demonstrated that healthcare mergers and acquisitions lead to higher prices without improving the quality of patient care.

Here in Oregon, the number of independent hospitals has declined from 28 to 16 since the year 2000. In the Portland metro area, the share of physicians affiliated with large health systems grew from 39% in 2016 to 71% in 2018 – an 82% increase.

HB 2362 will protect Oregon from further runaway price increases and takeovers by profit-motivated entities – whether private equity firms or wealthy health systems. It will require notification of deals before they happen and reviewing those expected to have a significant negative impact on patients and communities.



“Many have presumed that consolidation is a prerequisite for higher value,’ said Dr. Michael McWilliams of Harvard Medical School... ‘but the only consistent finding from good research is higher prices.’”

- *New York Times*, June 2016