



February 5, 2024

The Honorable Ben Bowman
900 Court St NE, H-484
Salem, Oregon 97301

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Representative Bowman,

As *the* advocacy association for emergency medicine residents and students, the American Academy of Emergency Medicine Resident and Student Association, on behalf of our over 3000 members, strongly supports HB 4130 prohibiting the corporate practice of medicine. HB 4130 specifically ensures that physicians are the key decision makers of patient's healthcare. Combined with the banning of non-compete clauses this would allow physicians to make decisions for patients based on their healthcare needs rather than for profit.

In recent years and decades, emergency medicine has been a breeding ground for the corporate takeover of medicine. This has led to many emergency physicians being placed in dangerous situations due to decisions in the emergency department being manipulated by non-physicians out of corporate greed, as they place more importance on shareholders and quarterly profits. In turn, this leads to the detriment of the physician-patient relationship and poor outcomes. It has become apparent over the last decade as corporate ownership of medical practice rapidly expands, allowing non-physicians to make employment and staffing decisions, particularly in emergency medicine contracts, the healthcare system has become more challenging to navigate and inefficient. There have been longer wait times, an increase in patients boarding in the emergency department and being seen in hallway beds, a lack of inpatient beds, and overall more healthcare visits where patients are never evaluated by a physician.

As residents and students, we want to continue to help patients, especially patients who are at higher risk and considered less valuable to corporations as they may bring in less revenue. As corporations have been starting residency programs at facilities where they own the emergency employment contracts, it has started to affect the training of emergency physicians, and in turn, future patient care. In the corporate practice of medicine, they tend to decrease physician coverage and increase coverage of non-physician practitioners to cut costs and increase profit. This leads to training opportunities being given to these non-physician practitioners with less education. We believe this threatens the future of emergency medicine and puts patients at risk, which is why we believe your legislation placing a prohibition on the corporate practice of medicine is vitally important.

We hope that you are successful introducing this legislation in the state of Oregon to allow physicians to appropriately care for patients and train the future of emergency medicine. Please keep us informed on how to further your efforts.

Sincerely,

Leah B. Colucci, MD MS
President

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