



Representative Ben Bowman
900 Court Street NE
H-484
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 4130 – Potential Unintended Consequences

Dear Representative Bowman:

As a radiologist, my physician partners and I have significant concerns regarding specific provisions of HB 4130 which could severely hamper our current operations and continued ability to deliver high-quality lower cost care to Oregonians. My longstanding, independent physician practice EPIC Imaging, PC, operates five advanced diagnostic imaging centers in and around Multnomah County and is a leading provider of women’s mammography and other vital diagnostic imaging services. We are among the very few non-hospital-based providers remaining in the area and offer Oregonians access to high-quality imaging at significantly more affordable prices. We have a very healthy partnership with a Managed Service Organization (MSO), Rayus Radiology, who under our guidance helps us manage our clinics and keep up with the significant capital costs involved in the practice of Radiology. The Radiologist partners own a small portion of the technical component of the clinics so this bill applies to us since we also own our professional company of doctors.

Specifically, we are concerned that Section 1 of the bill is overly broad and would prohibit our physicians from having an active role in the operations of our partnership with Rayus Radiology. We physicians are the ones that keep the business patient care focused. Oregon currently enjoys strong corporate practice of medicine statutes, but the changes being proposed in this section will discourage medical professionals from taking on leadership roles within medical groups and MSOs, limiting the potential for innovation and progressive management strategies. Further, the current bill may unnecessarily impede professionals who have valuable insights and expertise in both medical practice and management services, and this could potentially limit the ability of medical groups to benefit from a broader range of skills and knowledge.

Limiting these types of partnerships would compound already heavy pressures on independent practices, and in the bill’s current form, will likely drive further hospital-based consolidation by reducing available partnership opportunities. This consolidation will inevitably increase costs to patients, especially in capital intensive specialties like radiology. As a sub-specialized breast radiologist, I am concerned provisions in this bill will incentivize a “one size fits all” approach that could reduce patient access to affordable preventative services and care.



I urge you to deliberately consider a more flexible approach that allows individuals with dual roles to contribute efficiency to both the medical practice and management services.

Sincerely,

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