Submitter: Cornelis Hoekstra

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB4130

PLEASE stop the corporatization of healthcare. The trend towards more and more merging of insurance companies with medical practices is completely counter-productive to the need to move to a "healthcare for all" system in Oregon. The more entrenched for-profit companies become in the healthcare system the harder it will be to get them out and to implement a more shared social responsibility of people to their fellow humans. And the worse the overall care will become – simply because of the fundamental conflict of interest between medical professionals and insurance companies.

It's entirely appropriate for medical staff to be fairly compensated for their work to keep people healthy and for their lengthy studies to give them the skills and knowledge to do so. But it is NOT appropriate for the parasitic extraction of money to fill the coffers of corporations whose first (only?) priority is profit. People do not seek medical care for entertainment, luxury or their own profit. They seek it because they need it, and we as a society should work as hard as possible to ensure they can get what they need to live without unnecessary pain and suffering. Not because we are saints, but because we all need a healthy society to progress. If you look beneath the surface, it's in each of our own interests as taxpaying citizens! If we give ourselves over to corporations who'll restrict medical care to those who an easily afford it so they make more profit, then taxpayers will eventually pay a much larger bill because hospitals have to treat patients when their condition has progressed to a catastrophic state - and those costs are passed on to the society as a whole via increased health costs for everyone! Let's be pound wise - even if that means sometimes we spend a few more pennies than we might want to.