

Submitter: Deren Ash

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB4130

Hello Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Goodwin and Nelson, and members of the committee,

I live in La Pine in South Deschutes County. I'm writing as an Oregonian and as a patient, in strong support of HB 4130.

Oregon already has some good laws meant to help keep profit-driven corporations out of our medical care, but there's too much space for loopholes. We need to do what we can to close those loopholes. Simply put: Oregonians do NOT want corporations that are focused primarily on profits to be in control of our health care. They can still invest, but when those corporations CONTROL our care, then the decisions they make directly impacts our health care, which means they're making health care decisions for us. Where did their executives go to medical school? Where did they do their residency? They haven't, obviously. Who do we want making our medical decisions? People who spent years of lives on education and training, all because they want to help patients, or would we rather our health care decisions were made by somebody with no medical training and whose responsibility it is to put profits first? I think the answer is obvious, so I thank the bill sponsors, supporters, and the committee for making it happen.

Another important part of this bill that isn't talked about as much is noncompetes. I'm a software developer. Not long ago, noncompetes were the norm in the software industry, but over the years people realized that noncompetes just get people stuck in workplaces they don't want to be and that is bad for both employees and employers. It is not conducive to making good software, so it certainly isn't conducive to practicing good medicine. Some states, including our neighbors to the south, ban noncompetes across all industries. Even Microsoft, nationwide, stopped requiring noncompetes and stopped enforcing existing noncompetes on software developers. If even the software industry can do this, I think we can all recognize how important it is that physicians have a choice in where they work, so they can work in a place that allows them to provide the best possible patient care.

In regards to those in opposition claiming it will reduce investment in health care in our state, I call BS. There isn't a shortage of health care dollars, the big problem is where those dollars go. HB 4130 will help ensure more of those dollars go to the right place: patient care rather than corporate profits. Not coincidentally, that is exactly the opposite of what the opposition wants, which is for dollars to go to their profits instead of to patient care. I also want to reiterate something I heard at the

hearing: If a company doesn't want this, then why would we want that company in our state, controlling our medical care?

HB 4130 does a lot to help keep medical practices focused on patient care and not just corporate profits. I think it's an obvious must-pass bill, so I thank you for supporting it to safeguard patient interests and physician independence.