

Submitter: Tina Jenq
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: HB4130

I am a plastic surgeon practicing in Oregon for the last 15 years. I have seen first hand the deleterious effects of corporations taking over the practice of medicine and health care delivery. Medicine and health care is hard and complex. It can feel frustrating to see practices squeezed by dropping reimbursements in the face of high labor and medicolegal costs. However, the answer is not corporations taking over. Having entities that know nothing about the complexities of the health care system barge into longstanding communities is a mistake. Examples abound of private equity buying out physician practices and clinics, running up debts, and pocketing big profits in management fees only to declare bankruptcy shortly after. Ultimately, it is the patients and health care workers that suffer, left holding the bad debt of broken promises.

1) Example of private equity run health care business declaring bankruptcy:
<https://bkdata.com/business-bankruptcies/sandiego-california/02-17-2024/prime-corp-51411>

2) Private equity as Sound Physician was granted the contract to provide anesthesia services to Providence St Vincent, PPMC, Prov Willamette Falls. There were big promises of fulfillment to improve staffing of anesthesiology services at these hospitals with promises of big (unsustainable) salaries. These promises have been markedly unfulfilled, due to a lack of understanding of the culture and history of the medical care delivery within this region. Now, the hospitals are left with patients waiting 6 months or more for medically necessary surgeries.

3) Private equity took over a dialysis business on the coast in Oregon, and then closed down one critical access unit. Patients now are contemplating death due to inability to get regular dialysis treatment.

<https://www.opb.org/article/2024/02/12/tillamook-dialysis-closure-patients/#:~:text=When%20U.S.%20Renal%20Care%20closes,that%20number%20will%20dwindle%20rapidly.>

I urge you to pass this bill to protect patients and our community.