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On Behalf Of: physicians in Oregon
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Measure: HB4130

Corporations buying up medical practices and hospitals puts profit over patients and puts the healthcare of Oregonians at risk.

As a physician and an owner of a small physician owned single-specialty medical practice, I know how challenging the current practice environment is. It is made more difficult by large corporations entering and increasingly taking over the healthcare landscape. In my own community, I have watched large corporations take over urology, gastroenterology, cardiology, orthopedic surgery, primary care, and urgent care practices only to have entire groups of physicians leave within the first year or two. Because of non-competes, the physicians were forced to leave the area or had to wait out non-completes. The sudden loss of these groups of physicians left the community with a dearth of care in each of those specialties that took years to recover from. It takes a team of physicians of different specialties to care for the many seriously ill patients in the community and suddenly key members of the team were just gone and patients suffered for it.

When the focus shifts from patient care to maximizing profits, there is pressure to see more and more patients faster and faster, which leads to patient dissatisfaction, medical errors, and also drives up costs. It takes just a couple of minutes to order a panel of costly tests, but takes time to really listen to and examine the patient and then provide information about testing, diagnosis, treatment and prognosis. The history taking, examination, and patient education becomes rushed, when it is arguably what the patient wants and needs the most. Many excellent physicians in this community have left medicine all together after finding they can not practice that way- rushed and without taking time to make human connections with the patients they serve. Most of us went into medicine as a calling, entering what was viewed as a respected learned profession, but increasingly doctors are feeling like cogs in the wheel in a massive health care industry that has lost sight of what it means to really care for patients.

Large corporations remove physician-led healthcare from the practices they buy up, and put patient care decisions in the hands of businessmen that see only the bottom line without care or concern for the individual patients, the providers, or the health of the community at large. Help Oregon retain its skilled physicians and protect the health of our communities by supporting this bill.

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