



February 26, 2024

To: Senate Committee on Health Care

From: Emerson Hamlin, Political Organizer, Oregon Nurses Association

Re: Support for HB 4130 A

Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA). ONA is a professional association and labor union representing over 17,000 nurses and healthcare professionals. Our members work in urban and rural hospitals, clinics, school-based health centers, home health, and county health departments across Oregon.

Corporations, including insurance companies, private equity investors, and retailers, are increasingly investing in primary care. Research has shown that primary care clinics bought by these investors see increased healthcare prices: clinics charge 20% more on average, without any change in the quality of care or services provided.<sup>1</sup> Currently, Oregonians spend more on health care than they do on housing and utilities. More than a third of Oregon adults struggled to pay their medical bills, and 23% skipped a recommended medical test or treatment because they could not afford it.<sup>2</sup> Already, the cost of health care is a significant barrier to accessing necessary medical services. In order to support the health and well-being of Oregonians, our state must keep privatization out of primary care.

HB 4130 A protects against corporatization in three ways: it ensures that business entities providing primary care are majority-provider owned, it requires physicians to retain ownership of their business operations, and it bans non-competes and non-disclosure clauses in contracts between Management Services Organizations and providers. These changes will strengthen Oregon's existing protections against corporate control of healthcare. By doing so, our state will be preventing increased healthcare costs and ensuring that more Oregonians can afford the high-quality care they need. ONA urges your support of HB 4130A.

Sincerely,

Emerson Hamlin

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<sup>1</sup> Hutto, Emily. "The Cost of Corporatized Medicine." *Medical News*, MedpageToday, 21 Sept. 2023, [www.medpagetoday.com/publichealthpolicy/generalprofessionalissues/106430](http://www.medpagetoday.com/publichealthpolicy/generalprofessionalissues/106430).

<sup>2</sup> Oregon Health Authority, and Healthcare Cost Growth Target. "Impact of Health Care Costs on People in Oregon, 2021 ." Oregon Health Authority, Sept. 2023.