

Submitter: Jim Bunn  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure: HB4130

#### HB 4130 Testimony of Jim Bunn

Madam Chair and Members of the committee,  
For the record, I'm Jim Bunn. I'm from Amity and I represent Low Income Dental.

I support HB4230 and the concept of the A-8 amendment.

I have had the opportunity to observe the Oregon Health Plan from a variety of perspectives.

In 1989 as a member of the Senate I supported Dr Kitzhaber's radical new plan. A few years later, as a Member of Congress I worked to assure that it would receive adequate funding.

And for the last few decades I have tried to help build a strong oral health component for OHP.

We have had some wins and some losses during those 35 years.

One of the biggest wins was watching a small rural group of dentists grow into Oregon's largest DCO. One of the biggest losses was watch that company sell to an out of state group under the erroneous belief that our vision would be spread across the nation. That never happened. Instead the vision and voice of rural (and urban) dentists was drowned out by the "money guys".

I know it's about patient care and we have to remember who provides that care. It's an Oregon provider, not a Canadian investor.

It makes me sad when I think about the staff meeting where employees were told that their jobs were secure and they were valued. Those promises ring hollow when I realized that Oregonians are no longer the ones making the key decisions, those jobs are mostly gone, along with the dollars supporting the community. The headquarters overlooking the Three Sisters Wilderness has been rented out for other uses and worst of all, providers who have concerns about patient care are being replaced by company clinics. I guess I need to be careful how I describe who owns the clinic. Technically a "dentist" must own the practice but that doesn't mean they own the buildings or the chair or the drill and it sure doesn't mean that they control the delivery of care for low income Oregonians.

I hope that HB4130 can give us the foundation to build upon, to return the decision making process back to Oregon for Oregonians.

Thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions.