

Submitter: Jerry Strohkorb
On Behalf Of: Jerry E Strohkorb MD MPH FACOEM
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: HB4130

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a board-certified occupational medicine and public health physician with 25 years of experience in various settings. Over the course of my working years I have continued to see the degradation effects of Payers/Insurance companies, (and many other stakeholders) as well as the Corporatization of medical practice having an extremely negative impact on patients, physicians, nurses, and many other care givers. Our system was designed to work to support the patient-physician relationship, and all clinical activities should center around and protect that - At every turn I have seen many stakeholders interfering with the vitally important patient-physician relationship and in my view it has caused patients great harm, and caused repeated harm and moral injury to physicians and nurses, as evidenced by the incredibly high rates of burnout that they suffer. I do not think that there should be a profit motive in caring for the sick, and dying, it is just outright immoral. I and many of my colleagues have seen patient care worsening, physician and nurses working environments worsening while corporations and insurance companies raking in massive profits off the backs of the suffering both patients and physicians. this is just morally wrong, and we should not tolerate it as a society. The fact is as a physician who is the primary person who knows my patient and what they need, as well as my colleagues, having to argue for hours with a secretary from an insurance company who does not know my patient, and does not have a license to practice, and the several hours spent I am not permitted to charge back to the insurer, there is a severe power imbalance - I am advocating for my patient to save their life or prevent disease and disability, they are advocating for their profit margin so their executives who often aren't even physicians can make millions of dollars per year!! It is egregious and does harm to me and patients every time we have to engage that - No insurance company should be allowed to decline my prescriptive authority for my patient unless they have an established medical license to practice and have a patient-physician relationship as per all medical board requirements - The business people are ruining medicine and have driven cost of the system into the stratosphere for their own profit - this needs to be stopped and urgently changed for the sake of the valued medical caregivers, and vulnerable patients -

Sincerely, Jerry E. Strohkorb, MD MPH FACOEM