

Submitter: Holly Cauthron
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: HB4130

I am not a resident of Oregon, but I am a physician, and I am a patient. I have seen first-hand how the corporate practice of medicine (CPOM) is making access to healthcare harder for my patients, and the care they do receive is inadequate because of the CPOM. I have patients whose primary care clinics have been bought out by large corporate entities. Where it was previously easy for them to make urgent appointments, or even regular follow-up appointments, to get in with a doctor they know, they are now having difficulty doing that. Some of my patients are losing their PCP as their physician becomes frustrated with the changes enacted by the new clinic owners and leave the clinic. Some of these patients are transferred to Non-Physician Providers who are inadequately trained to care for them, but as NPPs are cheaper to employ clinics owned by these large corporations often replace physicians with NPPs.

HB 4130 closes loopholes in Oregon's CPOM doctrine, blocking corporations or private equity investors from owning or indirectly controlling medical practices and the decisions of healthcare providers. HB 4130 also limits corporate owners from enforcing non-compete/non-disclosure agreements and non-disparagement clauses for specific providers.

This is important because when large medical corporations enter the picture, it creates yet another roadblock between physicians and patients as these corporations prevent physicians from speaking truthfully to patients, don't allow physicians to refer to the best specialist for a patient (because they're not in the hospital system), and in numerous other ways dictate to physicians how to practice medicine.

The corporate practice of healthcare is rapidly eroding good healthcare in America, for the health of all Oregonians, I urge you to support HB4130.