

Submitter: Charlotte Maloney
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: HB4130

This testimony is based upon over 38 years experience as an occupational therapist, working in skilled nursing facilities, outpatient rehabilitation clinics, and home care agencies, as well as experience of family, friends, and my own. I have witnessed significant decrease in the quality of many health care services over this span. From my perception, this has been caused by profit becoming the priority at many points of decision-making, replacing the previous priority of providing the best possible care for each person when I entered the system as a 22 year old.

As you likely already know, health care spending in Oregon has increased by 40% in the past 8 years, which we all can agree is unsustainable for individuals, employers, and government programs. HB 4130 would create transparency and accountability of those who are making decisions purely based upon profit incentive. The bill requires physicians making decisions, rather than business people.

Studies published in The New England Journal of Medicine (January 6, 2023) show that when there is corporate investment in our healthcare system, costs increase while outcomes decrease. Corporate investment in our healthcare system is increasing rapidly across the country. Oregon has this opportunity to protect patients and providers from a hostile healthcare takeover. I live in Eugene. Since Eugene's OMG physician practice has been purchased by Optum, a subsidiary of UnitedHealth, one third of the physicians have left. Not only did these physicians leave OMG, they had to leave the area because of their non-compete clause in their contracts. We had too few doctors before this, so we're deeply lacking doctors now. Optum also owns a physician practice in Portland with resulting problems, as well as attempting to purchase the Corvallis Clinic practice of physicians.

Please vote to pass this bill. It's too late to help many patients in Portland and Eugene, but not for the rest of our communities.