

Submitter: Eric Bean

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure: HB4130

Subject: Testimony in Support of House Bill 4130 to the Oregon Senate Health Care Committee

Dear Esteemed Members of the Oregon Senate Health Care Committee,

I am reaching out to express my support for House Bill 4130. This critical piece of legislation represents a significant step towards safeguarding Oregonians and our state's healthcare system against the detrimental effects of corporatization in patient care, particularly from national and private equity firms intent on commodifying not only the expertise of our healthcare professionals but also the very essence of our health and well-being.

As a board-certified physician anesthesiologist and leader in a physician-owned, locally-operated private practice, I have dedicated my career to delivering high-quality anesthesia care in the Portland Metro area. My experience extends to serving on the Providence St. Vincent Medical Executive Committee, where I witnessed first-hand the impact of corporate influence on healthcare delivery. The termination of our contract with Providence in favor of a private-equity-backed entity underscores the challenges facing our healthcare system.

Colleagues like Dr. Douglas Shumaker and Dr. Jane Ng, who have shared their insights with this Committee, echo the sentiment that corporatization erodes the quality of patient care, diminishes trust within healthcare communities, and destabilizes medical practices dependent on specialized services like anesthesia.

My direct involvement in both clinical and administrative capacities has afforded me a unique perspective on the pitfalls of hospital management's reliance on external corporations. These entities often lack an understanding of local healthcare dynamics and fail to appreciate the critical role of hands-on expertise in evaluating and implementing healthcare solutions. The consequences of such oversight became painfully evident when staffing promises made by a new corporate partner in the wake of our contract termination fell drastically short of reality, exacerbating staffing shortages and compromising patient care.

Furthermore, the financial instability of some of these corporate players, as highlighted by Moody's credit rating agency, raises serious concerns about the sustainability of their operations and the potential repercussions on our healthcare infrastructure and patient welfare.

It is imperative that we take action to preserve the integrity of Oregon's healthcare system and ensure the continued provision of safe, affordable, and accessible care for all residents. House Bill 4130 represents a vital step in this direction, and I urge your support for its passage.

Thank you for considering our position on this critical issue. Together, we can protect the health and well-being of Oregonians and maintain the high standard of care that our community deserves.

Sincerely,

Eric Bean, MD

Eric Bean, MD, MS  
Anesthesiologist