

Submitter: Jason Jundt  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure: HB4130

Dear Committee Members,

I strongly oppose the HB 4031 in its current form. As a practicing surgeon that owns my own practice, employees more than 30 professionals in Bend, Redmond and Klamath Falls this would be detrimental to our ability to expand our services and maintain our practice. The reason for this is that, we have suffered more than 30% cuts in reimbursement over the past 20 years with 21% in the past 5 years alone combined with 10% or higher inflation in addition to the corporate activity tax. Which, basically fines us for seeing Medicare and Medicaid patients. We can't pay our employees less nor reduce their benefits, we cannot pay less for our supplies (the cost of which has skyrocketed) and we can't see more patients than we are already seeing. The only thing we can do is partner with business professionals who can help us gain efficiencies, reduce overhead and evaluate our practices using experience we don't have and for the aforementioned reasons don't have the time or the resources to employ in obtaining them.

Furthermore, I have seen first hand how the care of a multispecialty group in my hometown has gone from poor to excellent since partnering with an equity partner. I have not seen any dictation of care to their providers and their providers are truly happy and independent. The bill will have an effect of limiting care and reducing efficiency. It also, once again, allows the hospitals in Oregon to practice without regard for costs, patient access and competition. Particularly, in our community with only one health system this is a detrimental to the cost of care which is the highest in the State.

In reality, the biggest threat to the independence of physicians is the insurance companies and their ability to require then delay preauthorization, deny care using AI algorithms without any true peer review and the ever increasing burden on practices to fight denials. In the meantime, the stock prices for the insurance component of these companies are at all time highs.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint.