

Submitter: Peter Karth  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure: HB4130

Dear Oregon State Senators and Committee Members,

I am writing to you today in my professional capacity as a sub-specialty vitreoretinal physician and surgeon practicing in rural and costal Oregon. I urge your strong support for the bill currently under consideration in committee that aims to limit the enforceability of onerous non-compete agreements in the healthcare sector for shareholders of LLCs/medical practices.

My current non-compete agreement significantly restricts my ability to serve a substantial portion of my established patient base, and causes hundreds of patients drive over an hour each way to see me for their care. They have chosen to continue care with me, and are being forced to drive tens of thousands of miles to see me, collectively, This not only hinders my ability to fulfill my professional obligation to provide care to those in need, but it also creates a significant hardship for hundreds of patients and their caregivers who currently face extended travel times, often exceeding an hour, to access the specialized care I provide. This is a matter of public concern and wellbeing.

This scenario is not uncommon in Oregon. Numerous qualified healthcare professionals, while technically shareholders in large practices, are truly as powerless as most simple employees. Yet, they have no legal protection from the onerous and harmful non-compete agreements which were forced upon us before we knew better. This is harmful for doctors, patients, and the healthcare system in Oregon, and is particularly harmful by limiting patient choice and access to essential care in under-served rural areas.

I respectfully request that you consider the positive impact this legislation could have on Oregon's healthcare landscape, to patients and the care network. By enacting this critical measure, you will not only directly improve patient access to essential care but also contribute to the establishment of a more positive and innovative healthcare environment in our state.

On behalf of the hundreds of patients who rely on my care and countless others across the state facing similar challenges due to non-compete agreements, I strongly urge you to vote in favor of this significant bill.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration. I am happy to discuss this issue, and my situation, with you and your committee at any time.

Sincerely,

Peter Karth, MD, MBA, FASRS, FACS  
Vitreoretinal Physician and Surgeon  
Eugene, Oregon