



The Oregon Association of Acupuncturists (OAA) supports HB 4130. We agree with the corporate practice of medicine doctrine, upheld by this bill, that protects and preserves the right of licensed medical professionals to make ethical and medically appropriate medical decisions for patients.

We support this bill's efforts to protect medical practices run by licensed medical practitioners (including acupuncturists) from corporate takeovers, keeping corporate power and decision-making in check while protecting medical providers' ability to contract with third parties for services.

We support the regulation of corporate ownership, including third party corporate management companies and insurance companies, and support the regulation of medical decision-making of medical practices by these entities.

The control that corporate management and insurance companies could potentially levy against medical practices would be damaging to independent medical practices if not kept in check. These large, powerful entities need to be prevented from having the power to make medical decisions that affect patients' medical care.

Additionally, we support legislation that regulates insurance companies as corporate entities, preventing these powerful corporations from making medical decisions regarding patients. Currently, corporate insurance makes medical decisions without seeing patients in person. This decision-making includes refusing to grant prior authorization for visits for covered services under a patient's plan and refusing to extend the number of allowed visits for services covered under the plan in cases of medical necessity. Currently, teams of insurance company doctors determine medical necessity without seeing patients in person. These decisions are based on written documentation and insurance companies retain the power to define medical necessity. The medical practitioner working directly with the patient is left out of the process of both defining medical necessity and from making the ethical medical decision based on observation, interview, and physical examination of patients. We believe this is closely related to the current bill and greatly affects our profession.

We support this bill's efforts to allow the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to submit complaints to the Secretary of State regarding violation of the corporate practice of medicine laws. We support the bill's guidance to the Legislative Policy and Research Office (LPRO) to study

Oregon Acupuncturists Association (OAA)

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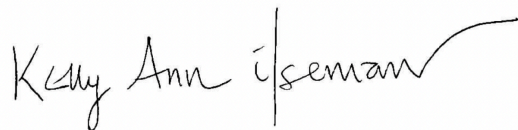
existing laws to ensure that licensed medical professionals ultimately control the majority of clinic practices, to study whether Management Service Organizations (MSO's) have conflicts of interest or non-compete requirements, and to study possible solutions to protect the role of licensed medical professionals and their patients from medical decision-making by corporate entities.

We urge lawmakers to shorten the 7-year period before this law is implemented to 5 years. Much damage is already being done by corporate takeover of medical practices and much more can be done during the time period before implementation. We agree that time to study trends is needed, but that this law should be implemented sooner than later.

The OAA adds our voice to the collective medical community in support of HB 4130 as a show of unity with other healthcare professionals, acknowledging how these major changes in the global medical system affect us all.

Thank you for prioritizing regulation of corporate involvement with medical decision-making for patients and for preserving licensed medical professionals' abilities to make sound medical decisions that are ethical and medically appropriate for patients.

Testimony submitted by Kelly A. Ilseman, OAA Research Committee Chair, on behalf of the OAA Board of Directors, February 27, 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly Ann Ilseman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a vertical line separating the first and last names. There is a long, sweeping flourish at the end of the signature.