

Submitter: Alex Polikoff  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure: HB4130

Chair Lieber, Vice-Chair Knopp and members of the Senate Rules Committee;

I ask you to please pass HB 4130 out of Rules with a do-pass recommendation to the full Senate.

There is ample evidence that the explosion of corporate ownership of medical practices is resulting in reduced access to healthcare as well as increased cost. The resultant moral injury to providers only worsens our doctor shortage. Private equity, national, and international corporations are beholden to their investors and shareholders, not the health and well-being of Oregonians. Do we really want a health care system in our state that allows real estate investment trusts to control decisions that impact people's health?

Rep. Bowman's bill does not make wholesale changes to how health care is delivered or paid for, it merely closes loopholes that currently allow those without medical training to directly or indirectly control healthcare decisions for patients. It also protects a doctor's freedom to speak out and practice where they want without repercussion.

Some in opposition say to wait and study the issue. Oregon has not been as affected as many other states but every moment we wait increases our vulnerability. It's going to be hard to put that genie back in the bottle. Corporations can still invest in medical practices, just not more than 49%. On top of that, the bill has a 7-year runway, allowing for future fine-tuning and taking the steam out of arguments against.

Both the Oregon Constitution and OHA have stated goals of healthcare affordability, equity, and access; corporate practice of medicine threatens all of these goals. Please support this very modest measure so that we can help retain local ownership and control of our Oregon healthcare providers and work towards our common goal of a healthier Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Alex Polikoff  
Corvallis, OR