

To: Chair Rep. Nosse and members of Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee:

My name is Naomi Miller-Altuner and I am a medical student in Portland, OR. The ideas expressed here represent my own viewpoints and not those of my school. That said, in the short 7 months I have been in medical school, I have already witnessed the direct health impacts of a broken healthcare system. Nearly every time I am in the clinic or hospital, I see patients whose health has deteriorated, sometimes to life-altering or life-threatening degrees, due to lack of access to care or an inability to pay for treatment. In my opinion, this has everything to do with the profit-centered nature of our healthcare system and the involvement of corporations in the delivery of care. When profits are prioritized above access to quality, equitable care, we (healthcare providers, medical students, etc.) see the downstream effects: patients who come in very sick with illnesses and complications that could have been prevented with adequate care. From a financial, but most importantly an ethical standpoint, this is unacceptable.

I urge you to support HB 4130 and prevent further involvement of corporations in the delivery of healthcare. As a future physician, it worries and saddens me to imagine practicing medicine within a system heavily controlled by corporations who are so far removed from the science, the delivery of care, and who frankly don't mind prioritizing their financial gain over human life. I hope the healthcare field will instead be led by healthcare providers who have their patients' best interest at heart. I believe it is legislation like this that has the power to transform our healthcare system for the better.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony and for your time.

Sincerely,  
Naomi Miller-Altuner