

Submitter: Judith Wickman
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: HB4130

Members of the Senate Committee on Rules,

I am writing to ask you to support House Bill 4130 to strengthen Oregon's corporate practice of medicine laws.

Oregon has become part of an accelerating national trend in private equity ownership of medical clinics across this country. The research is clear that the corporatization of medical practices leads to worse patient outcomes, higher costs, and less physician independence.

Corporate practice of medicine (CPOM) laws have existed for decades in most states, from California to Texas to New York, prohibiting medical practices from being owned by anyone other than a licensed physician or medical professional. These laws are based on the understanding that there is an intrinsic conflict between a physician's professional obligations of care to their patients and the profit-oriented obligations of corporations to maximize returns to their shareholders.

I have experienced this corporate influence very recently when Providence Health System terminated the anesthesia group that had been serving their system for over 30 years. The company that Providence chose to change to is an equity firm located in Tacoma. This firm was not able to provide the number of anesthesiologists require to provide service for all needed surgeries. I have waited in severe pain with a knee replacement that has fail for almost 5 months. Limiting my function and making it very difficult to carry on even the most basic daily activities. The only surgeries allowed were life threatening.

Please keep health care in the hands of providers and not corporations and Wall Street investors.

Sincerely,
Judith Wickman
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