



February 13, 2025

VIA UPLOAD:

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2025R1/Testimony/SJUD/SB/957/0000-00-00-00?area=Measures>

Committee on the Judiciary
Oregon State Senate
900 Court St NE, S-309
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Radia Inc., P.S. comments on SB 957 and SB 468

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and Committee members:

I write to share Radia's perspectives on SB 957 and SB 468. While Radia is submitting this letter today in opposition to SB 957 and SB 468 as drafted, we are deeply dedicated to participating in a robust discussion on the appropriate role of noncompetition clauses in health care contracts. We share the information below to help highlight for the committee another aspect of the complexities in today's health care environment of retention, recruitment, and the ability to offer consistent, patient-centered care.

Radia is a foreign professional corporation in Oregon. With the blessing of the OHA's HCMO program, Radia formed a subsidiary, Radia Oregon Radiology Medical Group LLC ("RORMG"), and combined our practice with the Oregon-licensed physicians of Medford Radiological Group, PC ("MRG") effective September 1, 2024. Radia together with its subsidiaries and affiliates are a 100% physician-owned and physician-governed medical practice and management services enterprise. Neither private equity firms, nor any other "lay" corporation has any involvement in Radia's ownership structure, governance, operations, or affiliations.

Radia recognizes the legitimate concerns regarding physician autonomy and mobility as well as patient access to medical services that motivate the current legislative conversations regarding noncompetition clauses. We also are keenly aware of the important role noncompete clauses play in establishing and maintaining stable staffing arrangements, particularly in communities and specialties facing health professional shortages.

As of February 11, 2025, there were 1949 positions for radiologists posted on the American College of Radiology job board. As in past years, 2025 will see less than half that number of newly minted radiologists graduate from fellowship and emerge into the physician work force. For example, 751 applicants enrolled in radiology fellowship programs in 2024. The number of eligible applicants for these programs is controlled by the federal government and Congress has known about the impending radiologist shortage for more than a decade without taking action to address it. This matters for recruitment and retention because most radiologists can work from home from anywhere in the country, so practices like Radia must offer substantial new hire bonuses (currently low six-figures) to attract new physicians, especially to work outside of urban centers.

We all want to ensure patients have access to necessary medical services. Preserving that access was a principal consideration in our combination with MRG. Radia believes a balance can be struck between

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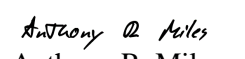
the goals of those who want to enhance physician autonomy and mobility and those who have legitimate competitive concerns about protecting the investments made in physician recruitment and avoiding physician burn out by maintaining stable coverage schedules. We agree with the Oregon Medical Association's written comments that any discussion of a rule against noncompetition clauses also should include discussion of reasonable exceptions where there is a clearly identified protectable interest, such as significant investments in recruitment and training.

In that regard, we have been impressed by the sincerity, care and energy Rep. Bowman's staff has brought to the discussion of these matters over the past more than 12 months of working on SB 951, a process that we have been heavily engaged in, and we are committed to continuing these conversations in a focused manner that yields the best policy result for Oregon patients and their care providers.

Thank you for your time and please contact me with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Signed by:


Anthony B. Miles
Chief Legal Officer