

Submitter: Ryan Gamlin

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB951

There is ample evidence, both in the scientific literature, and in real-world firsthand experience, showing that corporatization of medicine has negative effects on patients, communities, and those practicing medicine and caring for patients. I left a career working for medical insurers and other corporate medical entities to undertake the long and arduous training to become a physician.

In business, the number of times that I saw decisions made on the basis of their impact to patients, communities, or medical professionals was precisely zero. When corporations, or their proxies, are involved in medicine, decisions are made with only one goal: profit. As a physician, I now have the privilege of making decisions only with my patients' best interest in mind. A medical care system that values patients over profits is what must be maintained, and strengthened. SB 951 moves us towards this goal.

I have watched with sadness, though not surprise, the decimation of surgical care in Portland with the ouster of a longstanding private practice group with strong ties to the community, replaced by a large, national, private-equity-backed corporate staffing company unable to deliver on their promises — though their profits will not be affected. Patients cannot receive timely care. Cancer, heart, lung, and other vital procedures have been delayed, and patients caused unnecessary suffering.

I joined a practice — Bend Anesthesiology Group — that is self-owned and self-governed. We live in the community where we provide care. Our interests are aligned with those of our patients. I hope you'll help us to continue to do this by supporting SB 951.

Sincerely,
Ryan Gamlin MD