

2/28/25

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 951.

To the members of the Committee on Health Care,

For the record, my name is Dr. Gina Miller. I am a family physician practicing in Sweet Home, Oregon, where I have worked for the past 6 years. I am writing to express my strong support for SB 951, a critical piece of legislation that will protect the integrity of medical practice in Oregon by ensuring that physicians retain ultimate authority over decisions which impact patient care.

Senate Bill 951:

- Ensures that physicians retain ultimate authority over clinical matters
- Restricts Effective Control: Ensures Management Service Organizations (MSOs) cannot exert undue influence over the clinical and operational decisions of physician-owned practices, maintaining the principle that physicians should control physician practices.
- Limits Restrictive Contracts: Imposes limitations on non-compete clauses and other contractual provisions that MSOs use to constrain the autonomy of the physician practices they claim to support.
- Prohibits Dual Employment: Prevents arrangements where MSOs employ “captive physicians”

As a Family Physician, I strongly support SB 951, so that strong protections will reduce the ability for corporate entities to expand their influence over medical decision-making, thereby eroding the corporate practice of medicine doctrine and putting profits ahead of the health and well-being of our communities. As a physician, I have dedicated my life to the health and well-being of my patients. I have undergone years of medical training, taken an oath to prioritize patient welfare above all else, and built a career centered on the trust my patients place in me. At the same time, I recognize that medicine is also a business. Running a medical practice requires balancing financial sustainability with ethical patient care. This balance is the core of our healthcare system, preserved by the corporate practice of medicine doctrine that has existed in Oregon since 1947—a doctrine which more than 30 other states have also adopted.

Unlike physicians, medical corporations are not bound by an oath to prioritize patient welfare, nor do they bear the ethical and profound responsibility of making clinical decisions in the best interests of those they serve. Instead, the profit they seek to maximize leads them to deny medically necessary care, cut critical support staff, and

push patients toward high-margin, low-value treatments. These cost-cutting measures not only undermine patient outcomes but also place an increasing burden on physicians and frontline healthcare workers.

These concerns are not theoretical as we have already seen profit margins over patient care disrupt a large Oregon community when the Oregon Medical Group in Eugene underwent corporate restructuring driven by financial interests which abruptly severed patients from their longtime doctors, disrupting continuity of care and leaving thousands of Oregonians scrambling to find new providers in an already overburdened system. This upheaval wasn't the result of medical necessity or evidence-based decision-making—it was a business decision made by executives with no medical training. When profit-driven entities dictate clinical operations, patient care becomes secondary to financial objectives, leading to poorer health outcomes, increased strain on remaining providers, and a loss of trust in our healthcare system.

This bill does not ban private equity. It does not prohibit professional medical entities from contracting with Management Services Organizations for business and administrative support. It simply ensures that physicians retain ultimate authority over clinical matters—decisions that directly impact patient health and safety. SB 951 is a necessary and reasonable step to close these loopholes and restore decision-making power to those who are trained, licensed, and ethically bound to care for patients. Oregon's physicians must be empowered to make medical decisions based on science, evidence, and individual patient needs—not financial incentives dictated by private equity firms.

I urge your **support** for Senate Bill 951. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely

Gina Miller, MD