

Submitter: Robert McNamara  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB951

Watch an episode or two of "The Pitt" and ask yourself should companies that put patients over profits be in control of medical decisions in Oregon's emergency departments? As a Past President of a national EM society it is clear to me this legislation is sorely needed to help limit corporate influence on the physician-patient relationship. Our specialty has been significantly affected by lay entities including private equity having de facto control over medical decisions such as staffing patterns, the numbers of patients a physician must see per hour and the like. When doctors feel that they are mere tools to make money for Wall Street it erodes their professional satisfaction. EM is a difficult profession where we see the victims of violence, neglect and substance addiction on a 24/7 basis working nights, weekends and holidays. One cannot do such a stressful job long term if they feel exploited. The degree of corporate control has led to burnout rates over 60% with women EM physicians leaving the field 12 years earlier than men. The patients suffer when the doctor is over burdened or when, to save money, the company decides to replace a doctor with a non-physician. Again, watch the Pitt to get an insight into why we need decision making to remain with the physicians who swear an oath to put the patient first. Thank you for listening.