

Submitter: Alex Polikoff
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB951
Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden and members of the Senate Health Care Committee;

I write in strong support of SB 951.

There is ample evidence that the explosion of corporate ownership of medical practices is resulting in reduced access to healthcare as well as increased cost. The resultant moral injury to providers only worsens our doctor shortage. Private equity, national, and international corporations are beholden to their investors and shareholders, not the health and well-being of Oregonians. Do we really want a health care system in our state that allows real estate investment trusts to control decisions that impact people's health?

SB 951 does not make wholesale changes to how health care is delivered or paid for, it merely closes loopholes that currently allow administrators without medical training (MSO's) to directly or indirectly control healthcare decisions for patients. It also protects a doctor's freedom to speak out and practice where they want without repercussion.

I am very concerned that corporate takeover of local clinics (as has happened both here in Corvallis and in Eugene) is limiting my options of who I can see for medical treatment and how I will be treated. Both the Oregon Constitution and OHA have stated goals of healthcare affordability, equity, and access; corporate practice of medicine threatens all of these goals. Please support this very modest measure so that we can help retain local ownership and control of our Oregon healthcare providers and work towards our common goal of a healthier Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Alex Polikoff
Corvallis, OR