

Submitter: Craig Zarling

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB951

I write to support SB951. As a physician who practiced 30 years in Oregon, I have seen many examples of an organization pursuing profit at the expense of optimal medical care. I have needed to separate from some organizations to preserve my ability to provide care in accordance with best practices.

I read SB 951 as a measure that especially preserves rural medical care. If a physician is held to a no compete clause in a small community, they would have no choice but to leave their community if they didn't agree with policies and decisions made in an organization that employs them. In my own experience, and I think in others as well, the principle reason for disengaging from an insurance or employer relationship are obstacles to providing good healthcare.

Recently, we have seen the loss of medical access in small Oregon towns when private corporations took over healthcare organizations. Rural Oregonians deserve and need both access and choice in their healthcare. SB 951 is a step in protecting their health.