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On Behalf Of:  
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Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB951

My wife and I have been OMG patients for at least 10 years. I got a letter from OMG two weeks ago telling me that my PCP was leaving OMG, no PCP was available for me, prescriptions would continue to be renewed, but existing appointments would need to be rescheduled. But since I have no assigned PCP, there is nobody for me to reschedule with. I am now on a waiting list with no estimate of when I may actually be able to reschedule even an annual physical or wellness check. I continue to pay Medicare premiums, but have no access to health care.

My wife has gotten no letter from OMG. She tried to schedule an appointment with her OMG PCP 6 months ago, only to learn that her PCP had left OMG. She has been on their waiting list since then, all the while paying Medicare premiums.

We have both sought other providers, but find ourselves shut out of all but concierge practices either because they are not accepting any new patients, or are not accepting Medicare patients.

The health care delivery system in Eugene is beyond broken. For us, along with thousands of others, it has failed entirely. This has been the case for at least six months.

The proximal cause was the acquisition of OMG by Optum/United Health. No communication has come from anyone connected with these organizations offering any explanation or solution for our situation. We are left to rumors between friends, on the internet, or guesses about why this is happening, or what we can do about it. This legislation is a step in the right direction, albeit a year late. But I do wonder whether HMOs like Kaiser-Permanente will run afoul of this measure. Also, I urge care in implementing legislation like this, lest The remaining OMG facilities close entirely, and leave a thousand more patients without any access to care.