

Submitter: Caleb Gaydish
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB951

To whom it may concern,

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.

As a medical student in the state of Oregon, I have the tremendous privilege of learning the art of medicine. Since I started my medical education I've learned so much about not only how the body works and how one's health can become compromised, but also how the contexts of an individual's health affect every other aspect of one's life. To summarize what I've learned so far: physicians play a critical part in helping people navigate the ups and downs of health.

Without a dedicated physician to coordinate care, many patients feel intimidated by the complexities of the medical bureaucracy and climate of disjointed care. It's a scary place out there. Every patient deserves a good physician who not only has the knowledge to guide them through this rigmarole, but also has the time to do so. This is becoming seemingly more rare in the age of corporate ownership and mismatched agendas where profit incentives force physicians to see more patients than is reasonably sustainable in order to keep up with the directives of a distant and detached private equity firm.

As a future physician and current patient, this is not the direction I want to see healthcare heading. It is my hope that one day I may open a practice where I can spend the necessary time with my patients to help them overcome life's hurdles and not have to worry about a multi-billion dollar corporation breathing down my neck. As a patient, I hope that every physician I see has the time for me because I don't want to have to coordinate all the pieces of my own care. SB 951 aims to prevent this from happening and that is why I support this fully.

While my argument may not be as well-articulated as some of the physician experts and advocates you have already heard from, please consider my point of view as someone who will one day have to choose between practicing good patient care in Oregon or moving to another state to do business. Oregon is where I want to lay my roots, but if the climate of corporate ownership does not allow me to practice in a way that puts patients first, I may be forced to consider other options.

I urge support of SB 951 as one of many important steps to protect the integrity of our

healthcare system.

Sincerely,

Caleb Gaydish
Medical Student