

Dear Oregon Senate Committee on Health Care,

As someone struggling to find access to a Primary Care Provider after Optum purchased The Corvallis Clinic, I strongly support Senate Bill 951.

In 2020, we saw Optum purchase Oregon Medical Group in Eugene which led to physicians leaving the practice, increased costs in healthcare for patients, and many people unable to access quality healthcare as a result. In 2023, Optum purchased The Corvallis Clinic, the clinic in which I saw my primary care doctor. Not even six months later, my doctor left the practice, and I was without a Primary Care Provider (PCP) during a difficult time for my health. It took months to not only find a new PCP, but also to get access to the prescription medication I needed. The clinic appointments feel about 10-minutes at their maximum, and the doctors are rushing between patient visits. I cannot imagine it is feasible for the physicians to get to know their patients intimately, and I have not felt my health concerns have been addressed as a result. However, because of the way our healthcare system operates, I have limited options and need to maintain a PCP to have access to critical medication.

SB 951 aims to eliminate loopholes and ensure that private equity companies are not managing and seeking to profit from healthcare. SB 951 is an essential piece of legislation for the people of Oregon.

Thank you for allowing me the ability to provide testimony.

Sincerely,  
Esther Baas