

Oregon support of SB 951

To whom it may concern,

My name is Marco Fernandez, MD, I am a practicing anesthesiologist, president of both Midwest Anesthesia Partners and the Association for Independent Medicine. I am writing in support of SB 951. I have experienced firsthand the actions of private equity coming in and disrupting our healthcare market. We are a large anesthesia group out of Chicago and lost two groups to private equity. In both instances there was no notice or negotiations, the hospitals just decided to give contract to TeamHealth and Northstar, very similar to what Sound Anesthesia/Optum did in Portland. TeamHealth took over our contract in the Advocate Aurora healthcare system, it was all over the news because the operating rooms shut down.

We have become nothing more than labor in a production line, processing as many patients as possible, without regard to quality. This was all done in the name of “efficiency and innovation”. There is nothing private equity brings to the table that we cannot do for ourselves; they just want us to believe otherwise. In medicine, unfettered and unregulated growth is called a cancer. The corporatization of medicine has done nothing more than increase health inequity, increasing costs and lowering quality. Thank you for your time.