

Date: March 4th, 2025
To: Senate Committee on Health Care
From: Nick Keough, Political and Legislative Organizer, AFT-Oregon
Re: Support for SB 951

Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, and Members of the Committee,

AFT-Oregon is a federation of 27 local unions representing 18,000 education workers across early learning, K-12 classified, community colleges, and public universities. Today, our labor federation is writing to express our **enthusiastic support of SB 951, which aims to close critical loopholes in Oregon's Corporate Practice of Medicine (CPOM) doctrine and protect the integrity of physician-owned medical practices across the state.**

Oregon's CPOM law, established in 1947, has long been a safeguard for patient-centered care by ensuring that physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician associates have control over medical decisions. However, over the last decade, corporate influence in the healthcare system has reached unprecedented levels. With the rise of Management Services Organizations (MSOs), corporations and private equity firms have found ways to bypass CPOM laws, threatening the autonomy of medical professionals and the quality of patient care.

The unchecked corporate control of medical practices has led to an alarming rise in healthcare costs, exacerbating physician burnout, and failing to deliver the promised improvements in patient outcomes. Rather than focusing on the well-being of patients, corporate interests have prioritized profits at the expense of quality care. This trend disproportionately harms independent clinics, which are now being pushed out by corporate investors who seek to control both the operations and clinical decisions of practices that should be physician-led.

SB 951 is a vital step toward modernizing our CPOM laws to ensure that Oregon continues to prioritize the health and care of its citizens. By closing loopholes, regulating MSOs, and reinforcing physician control over clinical decisions, this legislation will help maintain the ethical principles of medicine that have guided our state for decades.

We commend the sponsors of SB 951 for their leadership in addressing this critical issue. AFT-

Oregon believes that this bill will not only protect the rights and autonomy of medical professionals, but also ensure that the best interests of patients remain at the forefront of healthcare delivery. **We urge you to support SB 951.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Signed,

AFT-Oregon

<https://www.aft-oregon.org/about-aft-oregon>