

Submitter: Lou Sinniger
On Behalf Of: HCAO Lane County Chapter
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB951

Senate Committee on Healthcare
SB951
Support

Last year's innovation fund was delivered to Lane County to help the community out after the Emergency Hospital was closed and Oregon Medical Group was acquired by OPTUM.

The money was meted out to several organizations. One organization was Best Med an Urgent Care Clinic with several offices in the area. The money is to increase hours of service. I tracked the ownership of Best Med which you or your staff can check. I found that Best Med belongs to a nationwide organization called Community Care Partners. They have one nurse on the board. Community Care Partners are part of another organization, Shore Capital Partners an equity investment firm in Chicago. They have no one in the medical field on their board. Equity firms are strictly for investment to make a profit.

We all know that mergers and acquisitions lead to higher costs and less service. Not only do studies confirm that but your own lived experience supports it.

Another finding was that six years before Peace Health closed the hospital in Eugene, they bought an urgent care organization that was about to go belly up from debt. Peace Health took on \$100 million dollar debt to do this. Zoom Care is the organization which has several clinics throughout the state. Zoom Care does not accept OHP patients.

SB951 will be a positive step to limit the negative impacts of investment corporations from abusing healthcare delivery.

As long as we continue to support systems that treat healthcare as a commodity we will continue to spend more for healthcare and receive worse outcomes in our healthcare.

Thank you.

Lou Sinniger
Retired AFSCME Representative