

3/4/2025

To the esteemed members of the Senate Health Care Committee

My name is Dr. Anna Tubman. I am a family practice physician and part owner of Northwest Primary Care, a mid-sized physician owned independent medical group which has served residents in Multnomah and Clackamas County for over 30 years. I am here today to testify in support of senate bill 951.

This is a crucial piece of legislation to protect our patients, and the integrity of medical practice in our state. As a physician I have undergone years of medical training, and taken the Hippocratic oath to prioritize my patients welfare above all else. Each day I take into consideration evidence based studies, protocols and my own fund of knowledge in my clinical care and medical decision making. I am deeply honored to receive the trust from my patients and my community.

Unlike physicians, medical corporations are not bound by an oath to prioritize patient welfare, nor do they bear the ethical responsibility of making decisions in the best interests of those they serve. Instead private equity is bound up in the pursuit of profit and maximal efficiency, on the way leading to worse patient outcomes and higher costs. Don't get me wrong, I believe there is a role for private equity and investment and management service organizations, but they should be in support and roll hand in hand with clinician led autonomy to provide quality and efficient care.

As a family physician I have seen my patients be directly impacted by cost cutting measures that cause a delay in care or sub-optimal care. My own clinic straddles suburban and rural areas and I have already seen the effects of patients loss of access to timely care, whether it be getting a necessary needed surgery, cancer treatment, or medications like insulin. This already disproportionately affects our low income and underserved communities in our state.

As a partner of a physician owned independent medical group that has approximately 40,000 people under its care, I recognize that medicine is also a business, a business which requires balancing fiscal sustainability with ethical patient care and delivery. Strengthening those safeguards are needed to be able to practice medicine and run an independent medical practice in our competitive and rapidly changing healthcare landscape.

As an Oregonian with family across the state, I have had loved ones lose their health care providers or had a delay in care with the Optum acquisition of Oregon Medical Group in Eugene. This is well documented by multiple news articles, multiple members of my own family have lost their primary care physician and access to timely care since the Optum acquisition in Eugene

As an independent physician owned practice, my clinic already is beset by many challenges. We are struggling to compete with massive private equity or hospital owned groups with recruiting physicians and retaining clinical staff. We are struggling with decreasing reimbursement, increasing regulatory measures, and trying to resist the onslaught of moral injury all the while providing high quality, efficient and personable care.

We must support the practice of medicine and safeguard the integrity of the relationship between patient and physician. The delivery of care must not be compromised and controlled by outside entities that leverage their market power in the interest of making more profits. Oregonians need me and other like me, to be able to do our jobs and do it well. SB 951 will continue to strengthen and protect the ability to provide quality medical care.

I urge your support of SB 951, with my humble gratitude and respect

SB951 Testimony

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