

Dear Members of the Oregon Senate Healthcare Committee,

I write to you in support of SB 951, the senate bill that prevents a major conflict of interest from materializing in our healthcare system. SB 951 will keep physicians at the forefront of decisions impacting patient care. Physicians must be freely allowed to work in an impactful place and speak up when they see harm done.

As a student doctor, I am committed to the health and well-being of my patients. I took an oath to do no harm. I meanwhile acknowledge that medicine operates within a business framework, which is especially pertinent in today's society. Running a medical practice means balancing financial viability with ethical patient care. This balance has formed the backbone of our healthcare system, safeguarded by the ban of unlicensed entities from controlling medical practices, the Corporate Practice of Medicine (CPoM) Doctrine, in Oregon since 1947. It's a doctrine that has been adopted by over 30 other states.

Private equity firms and large corporate entities do not take the same oath to serve patients. They do not undergo extensive medical training to make clinical decisions, nor are they tasked with prioritizing patient health and safety. Loopholes in the current system have been taken advantage of by these outside entities. SB 951 helps prevent private equity firms and large corporations from gaining increased, undue control over medical decisions.

We don't want to disrupt continuity of care. We don't want to force patients to find new providers—certainly not in an already-overwhelmed system. A business decision made by executives without licensed medical expertise should never drive such disruptions, financial profit, provider pressure and burden, and erosion of trust in our healthcare system.

This support for SB 951 is not a radical or new idea; in fact, the bill doesn't ban private equity, nor does it prohibit contracts with Management Services Organizations for business and administrative support. It simply maintains that physicians keep their expert authority over clinical matters—decisions that directly affect patient safety, patient health, and patient overall well-being. Further, maintaining individual patient health keeps communities healthy. SB 951 will allow physicians to continue ethically cultivating population health across our beautiful state. *Communities in Oregon need SB 951.*

SB 951 closes these loopholes and restores decision-making power to those who are trained, licensed, and ethically bound to care for patients. Oregon's physicians **MUST** be empowered to make medical decisions based on science, evidence, and individual patient needs—not unduly influenced by financial incentives imposed by private equity firms.

Please support SB 951 to protect the integrity of our healthcare system!

Sincerely,

Markus R. Hirschfelder, 1st year medical student