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- My name is Dr. Russell Massine, and I am a full-time practicing Nephrologist and the Chief Physician Executive for Summit Health in Bend Oregon. I have been practicing medicine in Oregon for over two decades and serve on the Board of Directors of my medical group.
- I am testifying today in opposition to Senate Bill 951 because it limits the ability of practices like mine to fulfill our mission of providing the highest quality care to patients by endangering our ability to remain independent through the support of a management partnerships.
- Before partnering with Summit Health in 2018, our medical group looked at multiple partnership opportunities with hospital systems as well as other private investors due to revenue shortfalls caused by falling reimbursements and challenges caused by the increasing complexity of operating a modern-day medical group.
- Luckily in Summit Health – our MSO partner – we found a partner dedicated to maintaining and enhancing the provider-patient relationship with a singular focus on quality and patient outcomes. Summit’s operating model is “physician led and professionally managed,” and the governance model embraces a local Board of Directors in Bend run by the physician leaders in our market.
- Since partnering with Summit, we have become one of America’s highest performing quality medical practices. Thanks to our MSO partner, our small medical group gained the expert administrators, best practice care team models, capital investment, and data systems we never could have afforded or accessed otherwise.

- The positive impacts of the partnership have been dramatic and immediate for patients. And all of this happened while we maintained our autonomy in our clinical decision-making without any interference from our MSO.
- Since 2018 our medical group has grown from 87 to over 200 providers and expanded from 4 locations to 11. With such increase in patient access, we have been able to more than double the patients we serve and the quality of care has gone up. Our customer satisfaction rating has increased from 80% to 95.1%, and our Medicare Quality Score used by CMS to ensure delivery of effective, safe, efficient, patient-centered, equitable, and timely care went up from 87% to 100%, where it has stayed for four years straight.
- SB 951 would undermine all of this. The bill endangers MSO and physician partnerships, because of the bill's ban on dual employment and ownership, which gives me a seat at the table to guide decisions that may touch my patients and integrates the administrative support I receive into my practice. Good policy would encourage this integration, not less.
- In closing, I urge you to vote against SB 951. At a minimum, please reshape the bill into one that focuses specifically on preventing corporations from interfering with clinical decision-making like California is doing in their Senate Bill 351. If SB 951 bill passes as is, the people of Oregon will have fewer high-quality, low-cost options for their care.

- Respectfully,

- Russell Massine, MD