

Submitter: Gray Brokaw
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB951
Testimony in Support of SB 951

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

OSPIRG is a statewide member-based organization representing thousands of Oregonians. We speak out for the public and stand up to special interests on problems that affect the public's health, safety and wellbeing.

OSPIRG supports SB 951 as a crucial step to safeguard the integrity of medical practices in Oregon by ensuring that physicians retain the ultimate authority over decisions that impact patient care.

Corporate influence over health care decision-making is a growing threat to quality of care and a factor in the increasing growth of health care costs. When private equity firms and vertically integrated insurance companies gain control over medical practices, financial incentives often take precedence over patient welfare. This can lead to higher costs, aggressive debt collection practices, worse health outcomes, greater inequities, and more closures.

SB 951 does not prevent private investment in medical practices, nor does it limit professional medical entities from contracting business support services. It simply ensures that clinical decisions remain in the hands of trained medical professionals, not corporate executives. This is a common-sense measure to protect patients and uphold the core principles of our healthcare system.

Oregonians deserve a health care system where decisions about their treatment are made based on science, evidence, and patient needs. We urge the Legislature to pass SB 951 and take a critical step toward protecting consumers and ensuring that medical decisions remain in the hands of those who are ethically and professionally bound to care for patients.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Gray Brokaw
Campaign Associate

OSPIRG