

Submitter: Kathleen Packard

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB951

I have been a resident of Coos Bay/North Bend for almost 50 years. I have just become aware of the imminent signing of an agreement with an equity funded health organization, Quorum Health, by our Bay Area Hospital. BAH is a public hospital and its mission is in direct conflict with that of Quorum Health. I want this imminent takeover STOPPED as it will inevitably result in the hospital being closed. Our BAH board and CEO have done an abysmal job in bringing our hospital to this cliff and are trying to convince us that it is the ONLY possible solution. That is simply not true. They have operated disingenuously, without any public input and without any creative thinking. We and the union (UFCW 555) have a viable alternative that would bring together all the healthcare providers in the area. On top of the consequences to the health of our citizens, BAH is the largest employer in our depressed area. I want private equity OUT OF OUR HEALTHCARE BUSINESS! I read that "hospitals are excluded" in this bill. I hope that is not the case for our uniquely held public hospital.