

Submitter: Tracy Sweely

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1000

Dear Committee Members,

I live and work in Oregon and pay Oregon taxes. I have attended Bay Area Hospital Board Meetings for many months now and I have watched the travesty of their affiliation with private-equity owned Quorum Health unfold, despite substantial public opposition. I am opposed to SB 1000 because, the way it is currently written, it would provide \$10M to BAH on July 1st. If the BAH Board moves forward with their plan to partner with Quorum, under their current timeline, Quorum would take over operations before July 1st. If that happens, half of SB 1000 funds would go towards payment of the loan BAH has with the Bank of Montreal (per forbearance conditions BAH posted at their last board meeting) and the remaining half would essentially go straight to Quorum. So this bill could basically give \$5M of Oregon taxpayer money to a private-equity company. Why should Oregon taxpayers be on the hook for propping up a hospital that will be sold or leased to Quorum Health by the time the bill takes effect?

I understand that the Bay Area Hospital in Coos Bay needs financial help to get through this difficult period and make a turnaround. But instead of SB 1000, please consider the Shared Responsibility Plan put forward by UFCW Local 555. That plan gives BAH time to turn itself around without initially using taxpayer money. Instead it would provide immediate financial relief using funds from Lottery Bonds and from a loan from Unclaimed property funds. The plan also seeks to expand the size of the district without adversely affecting the other health districts in the area, and would ask voters to approve a reasonable levy of .48 cents per \$1000 of assessed value. This plan allows voters to have a say in our own locally-owned healthcare system. I would only support SB 1000 if funds from it subsidized this Shared Responsibility Plan. But as SB 1000 is written, there is no guarantee that it would do so. Therefore, I am opposed to SB 1000 as it is currently written.

Thank you