

Submitter: Bruce Thomson  
On Behalf Of: Patients harmed by non-compete clauses  
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3227

### Support for HB 3227

I am Bruce Thomson, MS, MD a family physician retired from my private independent small group medical practice in Corvallis. I write in support of HB 3227. HB3227, is a critical bill to protect patients. Non-compete contracts block patients from receiving the care they need. My disabled son, a resident of Eugene, suffered through 2 years of trips to the Emergency Room at Peace Health Hospital because he was not able to see his usual medical providers. There were many other Eugene patients that had similar experiences.

Optum MSO purchased Eugene Oregon Medical Group in 2022. That purchase led to 1/3 of the doctors of OMG leaving medical practice for a variety of personal reasons. Some medical providers retired, some returned to their home states, some left Eugene, and some remained in and around Eugene. In 2024 Rep. Nancy Nathanson and Floyd Prozanski negotiated an agreement with OPTUM MSO to release several local doctors from their non-compete contracts.

I and many others applaud Reps Nathanson and Prozanski for their dedication and decisive action in highlighting the harm created to patients and medical providers that are brought on by non-compete, nondisclosure, non-disparagement, and non-solicitation agreements. The sorts of agreements that HB3227 voids have been shown to harm access to care. At a time when we have increasing healthcare workforce shortages, these agreements are especially problematic. These agreements interfere with providers ethical duties regarding continuity of care. They also increase corporate control of medicine at a time when Oregon and national society is reeling from the harm of this sort of control.

I urge the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care to move HB 3227 forward.