

Submitter: Sam Aylor
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1162

I have been working in hospice for over 15 years as a chaplain. I began my career at a for-profit institution that chose Portland not because they wished to serve in Oregon, but because they could not open in Washington, due to Washington's certificate of need requirement. The organization was originally family run but then sold to a for profit company in Alabama that changed the focus of the organization from giving quality hospice care to tending to the bottom line. For the past ten years, I have worked for a nonprofit hospice that is increasingly facing challenges from for-profit organizations that engage in such practices as buying the term "nonprofit hospice" from Google and spreading misinformation about our organization (saying that we no longer take hospice patients in order to get referrals).

Not having a certificate of need only benefits the for-profit businesses that run the various and ever-increasing number of hospices in Oregon. It does not serve patients, who become a commodity in the hands of these businesses. As a former employee of one of these for-profit hospices, I have watched the steady turnover of inadequately supported and under-qualified hospice staff that harms patient care. While some amount of competition is unavoidable, fewer, stronger institutions with well-trained and well-supported staff, working together to support the hospice needs of the community, delivers better hospice care to patients and supports the clinical staff who deliver it, rather than turning a profit for corporations. Please support this bill!