

Testimony in support of Senate Bill 951.

I am Michael Huntington, MD, a retired radiation oncologist from Corvallis. I took care of and heard about many patients who had delayed care for months or refused care because they feared the cost of care. They knew they had a serious health problem, but would wait until a crisis such as pain, bleeding, or breathlessness forced them to the emergency room. The ER doctor would inform them that they had advanced cancers.

As amended in 2022, the Oregon Constitution ensures equitable access for all Oregonians to affordable healthcare. Oregon must, therefore, control the design and costs of its healthcare system and limit the influence of private businesses whose primary goal is profit rather than population health.

Physicians are ethically bound to prioritize patient welfare. At the same time, corporations are legally obligated to maximize shareholder value—an inherent conflict of interest.

Research and testimony show that corporatization in medicine leads to worse patient outcomes, higher costs, and less physician independence.

Senate Bill 951 ensures that only trained, licensed professionals—not profit-driven corporations—make clinical decisions, thereby protecting both patients and healthcare providers.

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