

Submitter: David Norris MD MBA
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB951

As the Treasurer of the Association for Independent Medicine and a practicing physician, I write to express my strong support for SB 951 as it moves forward in the Oregon House of Representatives. This critical legislation, which has already passed the Senate, is essential to preserving the integrity of medical decision-making and protecting patient care in the state of Oregon.

SB 951 reinforces a long-standing principle in Oregon's healthcare landscape: that clinical decisions must be made by physicians, not by corporations driven primarily by financial returns. Since 1947, Oregon has recognized the importance of safeguarding medical practice from undue corporate influence through its corporate practice of medicine doctrine—a protection echoed by more than 30 states nationwide.

As someone who has spent decades caring for patients and building a sustainable, ethical practice, I can attest firsthand to the damage that occurs when this doctrine is undermined. Increasingly, private equity groups and vertically integrated insurers are inserting themselves into clinical matters, often prioritizing short-term profitability over long-term health outcomes. These entities are not accountable to patients. They are not bound by the ethical codes or professional responsibilities that define the medical profession. And yet, in too many cases, they are determining how, when, and even if patients receive care.

We have seen the impact here in Oregon. When corporate restructuring led to the dissolution of trusted physician-patient relationships at the Oregon Medical Group, the fallout left patients scrambling and care disrupted—not due to evidence-based medical decisions, but to boardroom strategies. SB 951 addresses this growing threat by reaffirming that physicians—not financiers—must have the final say in matters affecting patient health.

Let me be clear: SB 951 is not anti-business. It does not prevent the use of management service organizations or restrict investment in medical practices. Rather, it draws a necessary and reasonable line—preserving the autonomy of licensed professionals in clinical decisions while allowing businesses to support, not control, the practice of medicine.

As the bill comes before the House, I urge you to vote in favor of SB 951. Your support will send a powerful message: that Oregon values ethical, patient-centered healthcare and that we will not allow profits to supersede the health and safety of our

communities.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

David Norris, MD, MBA

Treasurer, Association for Independent Medicine