

To: Senate Committee on Healthcare
From: Oregon Emergency Physicians
Date: March 9, 2025
Re: Physicians in support of SB 951

As an independently practicing group of emergency medicine physicians in the Portland area, the undersigned members of Oregon Emergency Physicians support Senate Bill 951. As private-equity-backed and corporate-run practices continue to take over physician practice groups in Oregon, we recognize the threat this poses to our patient population. That's why we strongly urge the Oregon legislature to prioritize Senate Bill 951 and close the loopholes that allow these corporations to put profits over patients.

Many Oregonians may not realize that corporations are increasingly influencing their healthcare. Through complex structures like Management Service Organizations and "friendly physician" models, corporations are essentially practicing medicine without direct input of physicians, subverting laws meant to protect patients. This allows them to prioritize shareholder returns over the well-being of individuals seeking care.

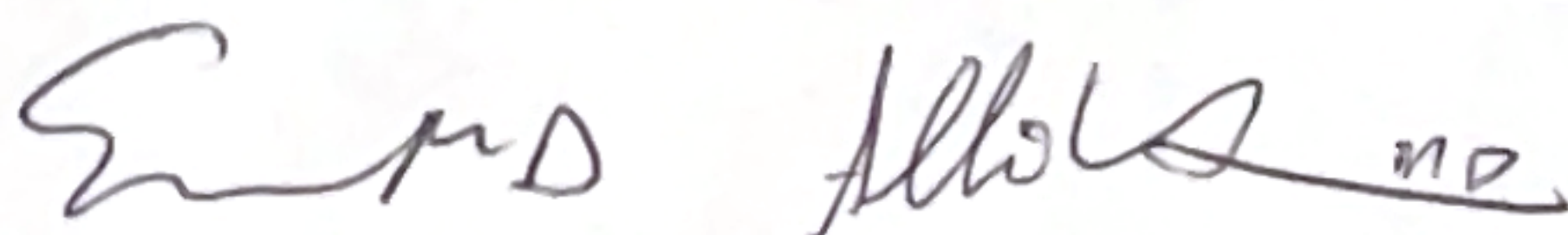
Oregon Emergency Physicians is an independent, democratic group that has been serving the Providence health system for the past 45 years, having never failed to fill a shift through the pandemic, nursing strikes, or any other obstacle in all those years. As a group, we make monthly and even weekly decisions about staffing needs to adjust to the ever-changing needs of our patients. For instance, during the recent Oregon Nurses Association strike, we made several adjustments to our schedule, shifting our workforce later into the night to accommodate the staffing changes related to the striking workers. That kind of dynamic practice does not happen in corporate-run groups.

The "corporate practice of medicine" doctrine exists for a reason: to prevent the inherent conflict of interest between a corporation's obligation to its shareholders and a physician's duty to their patients. When corporations are allowed to dictate medical decisions, the focus inevitably shifts away from the patient's best interests.

Senate Bill 951 is crucial to safeguarding the integrity of our healthcare system. It will close the loopholes that allow corporations to manipulate the system and ensure that medical decisions are made by doctors, not accountants. It will protect the trust between patients and their physicians, allowing doctors to focus on providing the best possible care without undue corporate influence.

This isn't about hindering innovation or preventing collaboration. It's about ensuring that the primary focus of healthcare remains the patient. Oregon has the opportunity to lead the way in protecting patients from the negative impacts of corporate medicine. Let's prioritize patient well-being over corporate profits and pass Senate Bill 951. Our health depends on it.

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