

Submitter: Alix Cooper  
On Behalf Of:  
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Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB951

I am a family physician at federally qualified health center in Astoria, OR. While I do not presently work in a setting with private ownership, I am very troubled by the growing influence of profit-driven entities on the practice of medicine. Already, many of the medical decisions I make on a day-to-day basis are made not in the best interest of the patient, but based on what their insurance company or pharmacy benefit manager decide to cover. Any steps the legislature can take to limit the shadow of profit-seeking outsiders from the exam room are welcome and necessary. I went through more than a decade of higher education to make these decisions-- corporate profiteers with no medical education have no place telling physicians like myself how to care for patients.

Non-competition agreements hurt patients, physicians, and communities. If I were to leave my current position, I would have no choice but to leave my community altogether. Wait lists to get a primary care doctor in my rural community are already months long, and even established patients have to wait more than a month to see me due to primary care shortages. If my organization were interfering with my medical decisions, placing profit over patients, inadequately staffing for safe care, or any other number of infractions that would compel me to leave; I would be forced to make the painful choice between upholding my morals and standards or abandoning my patients and community. I brought my medical knowledge and expertise to this job--knowledge and expertise gained through training at OHSU (a public university) and paid for by the federal government through the National Health Service Corp scholarship program. No company can claim this as proprietary information or trade secrets. Patients should be free to access care through the provider of their choice. There is no legitimate foundation for non-compete agreements for clinical medical providers.