

Submitter: Kathleen Johnson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB951

I am in favor of this bill. As a senior in this community, I have talked to many people who are upset with the state of health care in Oregon. It used to be that you went to your family physician and the doctor would spend time getting to know your problems and actually put his/her hands on you and examine you. Now the doctors are limited to 10 minutes or less with a patient and spend part of their time on the computer. They seem as frustrated with the system as the patient. Tests are suggested according to the needs of the clinic rather than the needs and desires of the patient. Some places don't even allow you to see the same provider each time. The doctors all have to suggest a covid booster even now after we know it wasn't really a vaccine. There are not enough providers in Salem, and many of us never get to see a doctor, but a physicians assistant or nurse practitioner. They are fine if a person chooses it, but with Medicare, there is little choice. It seems that Salem Health has taken over most of the doctor's offices in town and taken away their autonomy. I was lucky enough to find a clinic that is not controlled by them, but there aren't many. We need Medical personnel making medical decisions, not administrators.