

Submitter: Valdez Bravo  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB951

Please support Senate Bill 951. The corporatization of health care has gotten too strong. Health care should be sustainable but it should never be treated like a for-profit business. That is exactly what has been happening across the United States and now it is happening in Oregon.

Health care systems are fighting to earn every dollar of compensation from the big insurance companies. In order to have negotiating power over payer rates, health care systems are trying to grow. They do this through consolidations, mergers, and/or injections of capital from private equity groups. However, this inevitably results in leadership decisions, operational tactics, and patient-care decisions being constrained by or (worse) left to the corporate overseers - not in the hands of clinical professionals.

Doctors and nurses have the patient's best interests at heart and live by an ethical code. Corporations have the shareholders interests and the bottom line at heart and often exhibit limited ethical behavior, if the ethics are inconvenient to the profit motive.

Oregon has long had a Corporate Practice of Medicine Doctrine on the books (CPOM), but it is insufficient and weak. Corporations are finding ways around Oregon's CPOM doctrine and exploiting loopholes. Patients are suffering. Just look at what happened to patients served by the Oregon Medical Group. Look at patient experiences at the Corvallis Clinic. Look at the closure of the dialysis center in Tillamook. Over and over again, bad things are happening when corporations deliver health care or are in the decision-making space of a health institution.

Please support Senate Bill 951. Please limit corporate America's hold on health care. Please vote yes on SB 951 to stand with the clinicians and not the corporations.

Thank you,

Valdez G. Bravo  
Lake Oswego, OR  
House District 38, Senate District 19  
Congressional District 5