

Submitter: Teresa Mueller

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB951

I am excited and happy that SB 951 is in the works, as corporate control in our health care is out of control.

I am offended that non-medical entities—such as private equity firms and venture-backed corporations—exercise control over clinical decisions. As a young woman, corporate exclusions to my healthcare insurance, which cost me an arm and a leg, prohibited me from seeking help for herniated discs in the neck. I had 15 years of pain, which took away the sweetness of those young years that cannot be brought back. I hear that despite Obamacare, corporations still seek to value price control over an individual's suffering. It is outrageous.

Because of the doctor shortage in Oregon, I also object to stock transfer restriction agreements used to trap physicians in clinics under outside control, protecting clinical independence from backdoor corporate influence. Anything that interferes with the doctor-patient relationship is NOT ok with me.

I understand that restrictive covenants are yet another interference in a medical practice, sometimes used to silence physicians, restrict their mobility, and prevent them from speaking out against unfair, unsafe, and unethical practices. Doctors really should have a union. No union, then pass SB 951. Physicians should be caring for patients, not worrying about their profession putting them at risk when they choose to speak out about bad working conditions, procedures, etc.

Please pass SB 951 for the good of all people who rely on their care team for their full attention to health, not business!