



Representative Rob Nosse, Chair
Oregon State Capitol
House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

April 29, 2025

Dear Chair Nosse and Honorable Members of the Committee,

As two of the leading independent, physician-owned oncology and hematology providers in Oregon, we are writing to you to express our gratitude for the hard work and good-faith collaboration that Majority Leader Bowman has engaged in over the last year, which has culminated in SB 951. Majority Leader Bowman and his team have been very receptive to our input, seeking a deeper understanding of how our partnership with our management services organization (MSO) ensures that our patients have access to the most advanced treatment options while our physicians have access to the resources they need.

Operating an independent oncology clinic without the built-in advantages that large hospital systems enjoy is increasingly difficult. There are substantial costs including the maintenance of specialized pharmacy facilities, employing large numbers of administrative staff, complex administrative burdens, and the purchase and maintenance of expensive cancer treatment equipment. Our relationship with our MSO, the US Oncology Network, allows us to tap into the shared knowledge and resources that The Network brings to the table to help manage these burdens while enabling us to focus on what we are trained to do, which is to provide high-quality cancer care.

The US Oncology Network is a national leader in value-based care and is made up of 2,400 independent community physicians across the country. Network physicians provide care for more than 1.2 million patients annually, bringing cutting-edge cancer care to the communities where they live. Our relationship with US Oncology also gives our patients access to groundbreaking clinical trials through their partnership with the Sarah Cannon Research Institute.

We feel strongly that preserving the ability to align with an MSO is essential, as ever-increasing pressures threaten the viability of independent medical practices in Oregon. We are facing increasing regulatory and tax burdens, competition from vertically integrated health networks, and declining reimbursement from both government and private payers, in a time of historic inflation. Without the ability to align with an MSO, many independent practices will be forced to consolidate with large health systems, increasing the cost of care, and decreasing competition and patient choice.

Like the sponsors of this legislation, we strongly believe in physician independence and autonomy and want to preserve the ability of physicians to make decisions that are in the best interest of their patients. Again, we thank Majority Leader Bowman and the bill sponsors for their collaboration. We are happy to answer any questions and appreciate your consideration of our perspective. Please direct any questions to Shawn Miller at shawn@millerpublicaffairs.com, and he will ensure you receive answers promptly.

Sincerely,

Matthew Lonergan

Matthew Lonergan, MD
Practice President
Willamette Valley Cancer Institute and Research Center

John Schuler

John Schuler, MD
Radiation Oncologist
Compass Oncology