

**Testimony before the Oregon House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care
In Support of Senate Bill 951A**

Submitted by Dr. Shahab Akbari, Family Medicine, Salem Clinic, P.C.

Hearing Room C | April 29, 2025

Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Nelson and Javadi, and Members of the Committee:

My name is **Dr. Shahab Akbari**, and I have practiced **family medicine** at **Salem Clinic** for **11 years**. I graduated medical school from Tehran University of Medical Sciences in Tehran, Iran and finished my residency at UC Davis in Merced, California. After a couple of road trips to Oregon, I fell in love with this beautiful state and found Salem to be a community that I could call home and serve. Salem Clinic was an excellent career fit, allowing me to follow my dreams of practicing medicine within a physician-owned group, where patient care remains at the heart of every decision and physicians maintain the autonomy to uphold the highest standards of our profession.

I am writing today to express my strong support for **Senate Bill 951A**. This bill reflects an important recognition that physicians should be free to exercise medical judgment in the best interests of their patients—free from interference by entities driven primarily by financial motives rather than clinical outcomes.

At Salem Clinic, we are proud to be a **physician-owned and physician-governed organization**. Every doctor holds an equal share and an equal voice. Our governance structure ensures that decisions are made by clinicians for the benefit of our patients, not by corporate executives or outside shareholders.

SB 951A reinforces this model by appropriately prohibiting corporate control over medical practices, while also preserving an important tool—**non-competition agreements**—for physician-owned practices like ours. When used responsibly, these agreements allow us to protect the collaborative, community-focused investment we have made in building a stable and enduring practice.

This legislation gets it right by ensuring that **non-compete agreements are limited to appropriate contexts for physicians**, not where they are subordinate to private equity or corporate control. We appreciate that the bill acknowledges the difference between exploitative non-competes and those that reinforce mutual trust and shared governance.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this legislation. I urge your **yes vote on SB 951A**.

Sincerely,

Dr. Shahab Akbari

Family Medicine, Salem Clinic, P.C.