

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

**Submitted by Dr. Ian Loewen-Thomas, 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. Ian Loewen-Thomas**, and I serve as a **family medicine** physician at **Salem Clinic**. I have practiced medicine here for **27 years**, and I chose this path because **of my desire to make a difference in people's health and quality of life**. I have enjoyed practicing in Oregon due to the commitment I have seen from our community as well as leaders to ensure that the citizens of this state are given access to quality healthcare. There is still much work to be done to improve access for patients and I have enjoyed being involved in working on solutions, whether it is within my own practice or collaborating with other entities.

I am here to voice my support for **SB 951**, a bill that will help Oregon safeguard the independence of medical professionals and ensure that decisions about patient care remain in the hands of those who are trained and licensed to provide it.

At Salem Clinic, our model is simple: **we are 100% owned by the physicians who practice here**. We are equal shareholders. That means we share responsibility, decision-making, and accountability—not to corporate owners, but to our patients and one another. Maintaining this model requires long-term commitment, shared values, and mutual protection.

That's why we appreciate that **SB 951 maintains the ability for physician-owned groups like ours to continue using non-compete agreements among partners**. These agreements don't restrict innovation or competition—they protect continuity, community relationships, and the integrity of the shared practice we've all built together.

The bill is also critical because it **prevents large corporations and management service organizations from exercising de facto control over medical decision-making**, which we know can lead to compromised care, rushed appointments, and cost-driven protocols that place profits ahead of people.

Salem Clinic supports this legislation because it strengthens the foundations of community medicine, while striking a thoughtful balance between limiting harmful practices and preserving essential ones.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully urge your **support of SB 951**.

Sincerely,
Dr. Ian Loewen-Thomas
Family Medicine, Salem Clinic, P.C.