

Submitter: Mike Shirtcliff

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB957

Mr chair, Vice Chairs and members of the committee, for the record I'm Dr Mike Shirtcliff. I'm a dentist from Redmond.

I support SB957-A and more specifically the-3 amendment.

I was a founding member of what became Oregon's largest Dental Care Organization (DCO). As we worked to develop a provider network we encouraged independent providers. We welcomed dentists who often competed with our company owned clinics which were primarily used to fill voids and assure patient access.

Things changed and often not for the better. Company clinics appear to be pushing out competing independent clinics. If I understand correctly DCOs are writing increasingly anti competitive language into their contracts with independent dentists. I have been told by multiple dentists that they have been threatened with lawsuits if they contact their patients to inform them of their right to continue under the care of their current provider.

I spoke to your committee when you heard HB3923. The issues still exist. I'm disappointed that this bill doesn't contain the language about transferring 500+ patients but I'm delighted that it preserves the intent of HB3923 in banning gag orders in DCO to provider contracts.

Thank you for your consideration of the-3 amendment