

Submitter: Max Higbee

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB957

Mr. chair and members of the committee I am Dr. Max Higbee from Redmond Oregon.

I am testifying in favor of the –3 amendment to SB 957-A.

After I chose to contract with an Oregon based DCO rather than one based outside the US I received a strongly worded letter, telling me that I couldn't communicate with my patients to inform them that they could choose to continue under my care.

My patients are my friends and neighbors. Their care is extremely important to me. In addition I have a professional responsibility to my patients and if I don't inform my patients of the change, the Oregon Board of Dentistry could penalize me for patient abandonment.

When a billion dollar company threatens you if you notify patients of their options it is an abuse of noncompete contract language. The intent of the amendment is clear. I have the right and responsibility to inform my patients of their options and this bill, as amended will invalidate contract language between a DCO and dentist that attempts to silence the dentist. Gag orders have no place in our contracts.