

Submitter: Husein Shaikh
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB957

Thank you, Chair and members of the committee, for the opportunity to speak today in strong support of Senate Bill 957-A3.

My name is Dr. Husein Shaikh. I'm a practicing dentist and the proud owner of an independent dental clinic in downtown Hillsboro, Oregon. As a minority business owner, I've built a practice that reflects and serves the community I come from — diverse, hardworking, and often underserved.

The majority of my patients rely on the Oregon Health Plan (Medicaid) for their dental care. Many of them are from immigrant families, minority communities, or low-income backgrounds. They come to my office not just for fillings or cleanings — they come because they trust me. And that trust didn't happen overnight. It took time, patience, and genuine connection to break down barriers built by a lifetime of systemic inequality, language gaps, and past traumas in the healthcare system.

That's why I support SB957-A3. Banning non-compete clauses in healthcare is about more than just contracts — it's about protecting the relationships between providers and patients. When a dentist is forced out of a community or barred from continuing care due to a non-compete, the patients suffer. Continuity of care is disrupted. Trust is broken. And in many cases, patients delay or stop care altogether — especially those already struggling to navigate the system.

I've seen firsthand how damaging these contractual restraints can be. I've had colleagues leave jobs not because they wanted to, but because their contracts left them no choice. And I've seen patients come to me after losing a trusted provider, confused and scared to start over again. Using gag orders and other non competitive language in a contract between a DCO and a dentist is certain to undermine the trust relationship between a dentist and patient.

Healthcare, especially in vulnerable communities, runs on trust. We can't allow corporate contracts to take that away.

Thank you for your time, and I urge you to support SB957-A3.