

Submitter: Nathaneal Douglas
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB951

As a Family Medicine Physician working in my small community, the importance of healthcare being run by physicians cannot be understated. Our duty and Hippocratic oaths put the care for our patients front and center. The recent privatization and corporatization of healthcare has only added unnecessary middle men, rising costs, and inefficiencies that ultimately erode patient care. I currently own and operate two separate small medical clinics here in Oregon. As a business owner, my goals and duties are to see my business thrive and prosper. However, as a physician/owner, I also have to weigh all of my business decisions in the lens of my duties to my patients. If a business decision would benefit my businesses but cause gaps or compromises to patient care, my Physician oaths prevent me from moving the business in that direction. Management Service organizations have no such compass. The profitability of healthcare becomes the priority with no checks or balances to the ultimate impact on patient care. Oregonians deserve better healthcare, run by physicians and not corporate interests.

I support SB 951 in its efforts to shore up privatized and corporate interests in the medical care of Oregonians. Physicians who have sworn an oath to upholding patient care should hold the majority ownership of each and every healthcare business in Oregon.