

## HB 2933

My name is John Gambia and I practiced medicine in Oregon for almost 35 years. During most of that time I had an Adversarial relationship with the medical board.

My concerns about HB 2933 have nothing to do with that relationship but it has given me 35 years of experience dealing with medical board behavior.

Since the purpose of the Medical Practice Act is to protect the citizens of the state I think it relevant to question just how do civil penalties on unlicensed individuals protect the public. These penalties would protect the doctors by limiting the ability of citizens to do more for themselves. But, we don't know what or who the medical board had in mind when creating this bill, all we do know is the board wants to extend its control to almost everyone in the state.

When a product, like medical care, is available in an effective, safe, reasonably priced form consumers do not seek alternatives. Obviously many do not see available medical services providing this kind of care. Bills like HB 2933 suggest that independent efforts to prevent or improve the response to an illness may now be the target for civil penalties. It certainly gives the impression that the monopoly does not like competition.

According to the Center for Disease Control and National Poison Control data there have been no deaths from vitamins, minerals, herbal preparation, multilevel products or the multitude of OTC preparations available.

On the other hand, according to the Journal of the American Medical Association, almost 300,000 people die each year from iatrogenic disease, or disease caused by doctors. That is the real epidemic. And it is difficult to see what the medical board is doing about this epidemic, or really see what the board is doing about anything else.

Having experienced the trauma and expense of administrative hearings I would testify it is a form of terrorism. The board is in total control of dates, timing, witnesses, the judge, and in the end if they don't like the decision they ignore it. Very few businesses or individuals survive administrative hearings. Administrative hearings are a great form of intimidation, and HB 2933 exposes most citizens to that threat, and I cannot see that it in anyway protects the citizens.

If someone doesn't have a medical license and is harming people, should they be paying a civil penalty to the Medical Board or should they be in jail???