



February 9, 2021

Chair Prusak & Members of the House Healthcare Committee,

My name is Michael Olson, and I am a Regional Administrator with Praxis Health, Oregon's largest independent network of healthcare providers. Praxis serves the healthcare needs of over 60,000 Oregonians, with 32 local community clinics located in 10 counties across our state.

I am writing today in opposition to HB2362 and HB2079, both of which would create unnecessary regulatory burdens for providers as well as for the Oregon Health Authority, at a time when our priorities need to be acutely focused on the immediacy of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Both bills would create redundant processes that add only cost to an already expensive, complex, and appropriately regulated merger process. Other State agencies can and do regulate mergers and acquisitions with authority to intervene. New and incremental regulatory layers involving additional agencies and based on arbitrary benchmarks would create disproportionately large impacts for small to mid-size groups like Praxis to bear their associated costs. Additionally, we see an increased risk for the disclosure of sensitive information in an already sensitive non-disclosure process.

Within the current regulatory environment, the careful growth of Praxis Health has positively contributed to patient access and care quality throughout many of the districts across Oregon. We believe HB2362 and HB2079, while well intended, are an unnecessary solution to a process that is adequately regulated and controlled, and would burden an organization such as ours that is working hard to bring increased healthcare access to our communities.

Very Truly Yours,

*Michael F. Olson*

**Michael Olson, MHA, DPT**  
Government Affairs Director  
Regional Administrator for Mid-Willamette Valley