



OREGON ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

MAKING HEALTH PRIMARY

Chair Nosse, Vice Chair Goodwin, Vice Chair Nelson and Members of the House Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee:

I am writing on behalf of more than 1,700 Oregon family physicians and medical students in support of HB 4130. Our mission is to support family physicians in their pursuit of optimal health for the people of Oregon. Our members work in all kinds of health care settings from urgent care to hospice care, to medical home clinics. In our work we have seen the negative effects that rampant privatization can cause to patients, by increasing costs and decreasing quality of care.

The policy proposed in HB 4130 is simple, the prohibition of the corporate practice of medicine has been in statute, in Oregon, for over a decade. HB 4130 would merely close a loophole for LLCs and LLPs, ensuring that physicians are always in control of patient care, and require disclosure of ownership structure and corporate partners.

Physicians are best suited to control practices as they will center patient care over profit. Family doctors are often with their patients over the course of their life, from day one, we know their family, we have seen them through thick and thin, and our patients trust us. That is not something a corporation can typically say. The delivery of care must not be influenced by outside entities that leverage their market power in the interest of making more profits.

In an era where health care prices continue to climb, prohibiting corporatization will help keep patient care accessible and affordable. Data has shown that privately acquired practices charge more than their non-acquired peers¹. Additionally, visits tend to be shorter meaning that prices increase while quality of care decreases. Help us protect patients

¹ Yashaswini Singh et al., "Association of Private Equity Acquisition of Physician Practices with changes in Health Care Spending and Utilization," JAMA Health Forum 3, no. 9 (2022), doi: 10.1001/jamahealthforum.2022.2886.

by passing HB 4130!

We are happy to discuss this legislation with any members of the committee.

Betsy Boyd-Flynn

Executive Director
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