

Submitter: Trevor Phillips
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: HB4130

I am writing in my individual capacity as an Emergency Room physician in Oregon to urge you to support House Bill 4130 to strengthen Oregon's corporate practice of medicine laws.

Oregon has become part of an accelerating national trend in private equity ownership of medical clinics across this country. The research is clear that the corporatization of medical practices leads to worse patient outcomes, higher costs, and less physician independence.

Corporate practice of medicine (CPOM) laws have existed for decades in most states, from California to Texas to New York, prohibiting medical practices from being owned by anyone other than a licensed physician or medical professional. These laws are based on the understanding that there is an intrinsic conflict between a physician's professional obligations of care to their patients and the profit-oriented obligations of corporations to maximize returns to their shareholders.

HB 4130 closes loopholes in Oregon's CPOM doctrine, blocking corporations or private equity investors from owning or indirectly controlling medical practices and the decisions of healthcare providers. HB 4130 also limits corporate owners from enforcing non-compete/non-disclosure agreements and non-disparagement clauses for specific providers. These are increasingly common practices that leave doctors handcuffed and unable to speak out about harmful conditions or start their own independent practice. These practices have already forced some doctors to move out of Oregon.

The corporatization of healthcare is well underway and without moving this bill forward, you will be deciding by not deciding. We know that local physicians are better suited to control the practice of medicine than out-of-state equity investors. This bill is urgently needed to protect patients, physicians, and all Oregonians. I urge your support of HB4130.

Sincerely, Trevor Phillips, MD

Salem, Oregon
Resident of SD-10