

I have been an Internal Medicine physician in Portland since 2004 and I care deeply about the health of Oregonians. The increasing influence of private equity backed corporations on medical practices threatens the future health of our citizens. Private equity is focused on one thing, profit, and has no place in the decisions made between doctors and patients about their healthcare needs.

As A. Gupta et al showed in a study of more than 7 million Medicare patients from 2005-2017, patient mortality rates during nursing home stays and in the subsequent 90 days is 10 percent higher at facilities owned by private equity firms than at skilled nursing facilities overall.

([://www.nber.org/papers/w28474](http://www.nber.org/papers/w28474))

The ongoing Steward Health Care crisis in Massachusetts is another tragic example of what happens when private equity backed for-profit corporations get involved in health care systems. This leaves patients, often the most vulnerable, to suffer the consequences of the cost cutting and decline in quality. The Oregon legislature can take a step toward preventing such a crisis of care in our state by passing HB 4130.

Putting profits over patients is also done at the expense of healthcare workers safety. This is one contributor to the increase in workplace violence in healthcare settings, which is being addressed in HB 4088. Patients and families risk no longer having a personal relationship with their physician and health care team. This can result in frustration with the increasingly complex system. The depersonalized care that comes with corporate medicine makes violent outbursts more likely.

Please support HB 4130 to protect our citizens and allow Oregon to continue to set precedents for the country in protecting healthcare rights.

Respectfully,

Christine Stock MD