

Submitter: Alex Polikoff

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure: HB4130

Chair Patterson and members of the Senate Healthcare Committee;

I write in strong support of HB 4130.

It has become clear that corporations are increasingly feeding at the trough of healthcare dollars at the expense of patient care. Private equity and national corporations are beholden to their investors and shareholders, not the health of the aged, disabled, or general population. Do we really want a health care system in our state that allows real estate investment trusts to control decisions that impact people's health?

Rep. Bowman's bill does not make wholesale changes to how health care is delivered or payed for, it merely closes loopholes that currently allow those without medical training to take part in healthcare decisions for patients. It also protects a doctor's freedom to speak out and practice where they want. Unfortunately, the requirement for transparency in medical practice ownership/control was removed by the House Healthcare Committee in order to speed passage, but I am hopeful that this vital part of the bill will be restored at some future date.

In conclusion, I am tired of being treated as a commodity and as a vehicle for corporate profit within our present dysfunctional and costly health care system. Both the Oregon Constitution and OHA have stated goals of healthcare affordability, equity, and access; corporate practice of medicine threatens all of these goals. Please support this very modest measure so that we can help retain local control of our Oregon healthcare providers and work towards our common goal of a healthier Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Alex Polikoff
Corvallis, OR