

Submitter: Patrick Baker

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure: HB4130

I am an anesthesiologist who has worked in private practice in Oregon since I graduated from fellowship in 2020. In my short career I have been personally impacted by private equity's encroachment into the healthcare sector. My physician owned anesthesiology group at Providence St. Vincent Hospital in Portland, OR (Oregon Anesthesiology Group) was effectively terminated and replaced by a private equity-backed anesthesiology group (Sound Physicians, owned by UnitedHealthcare). The fallout from this decision is ongoing, drastic, and negative. It has been chronicled by Oregon's largest newspaper, the Oregonian. Sound Physicians has been unable to hire enough anesthesiologists and CRNAs since their takeover, thus delaying thousands of patients' access to surgical care at two of Portland's largest metropolitan hospitals (Providence Portland and Providence St. Vincent), not to mention the downstream effects on the hospital staff (nurses, surgeons, OR staff) and anesthesiologists who were working at those hospitals.

It is vitally important to keep physicians in control of patient care and ensure private equity does not control the future of Oregon's healthcare. Patient's lives and health depend on it. I am in total support of this bill.