

Submitter: Edwin Leap
On Behalf Of: American Academy of Emergency Medicine
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: HB4130

To the honorable members of the Oregon Senate Committee on Health Care,

I have practiced emergency medicine for thirty years since completing my residency training. Furthermore, I am a columnist and have a monthly sense of what is happening in medicine. As such, over the course of my career I have seen the practice of medicine deteriorate further and further as corporate control has grown like a cancer and metastasized throughout every aspect of the delivery of care to the injured, sick and dying in our communities. I have further witnessed the steady demoralization of dedicated healthcare professionals. This has been so impactful that physicians, nurses, paramedics and others are leaving practice as early as they can afford, and those who would practice late in life are seeking expeditious retirements.

All of this harms one group more than others, and that is the patients who depend on our care. Sadly, the interests of profit, administrators and investors are now paramount and the interests of patients are falling further and further behind the pursuit of the dollar; or rather, the billions of dollars.

I urge you to act in the best interest of those who need healthcare and those who provide it, and prohibit the business world from trying to practice medicine.

Sincerely,

Edwin Leap, MD