

Submitter: Patricia Aronin  
On Behalf Of: self and TX400  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure: HB4130

To: the honorable Senators of the state of Oregon

Please vote for Oregon HB4130

I am in agreement with the letter you received a short while ago from Take Medicine Back.

As a retired pediatric neurosurgeon I have watched with horror as our once well respected profession has been decimated by corporate take over. When people without any medical training are deciding who should have imaging studies and which anticonvulsant should be given to an epileptic something is wrong. Worse still is when a patient with complex medical problems is referred to a specialist by a primary care physician, only to arrive at the appointment to be seen by a nonphysician provider with a fraction of the training and expertise of the physician who referred them. Nonphysicians making decisions about who should be admitted to a hospital and for how long, and what treatments they can have and by whom is not in the best interest of patient well-being. Whether by huge hospital systems (nonprofit, not for profit and for profit) becoming vertically integrated and buying up all the practices in the area, insurance behemoths like United Health become the largest employer of physicians, or private equity buying up physician practices and management groups, the result is the same – the disruption of the sacred physician-patient relationship. These entities have taken control of medical practice. Hospital systems which were created to care for the poor, now care only for the bottom line that ensures the CEOs end of year bonus. Private equity has a fiduciary responsibility to its shareholders, NOT the well-being of the patients its practices care for.

Physicians no longer have the ability to uphold their Hippocratic oath since as employees of these institutions, they lack due process. Exiting medical school after years of training and six-figure debt, they risk being fired for speaking up for patient safety. They are being denied due process and forced to accept non-compete clauses which deprive patients of their physicians at a time when we have a critical shortage of physicians. We are watching the destruction of the medical profession. HB 4130 would provide some balance by keeping those who have no medical training from telling physicians how to practice medicine. This bill also protects physicians from retaliation by their employers when they speak out about practices that are harmful to patients.

The business of medicine and the practice of medicine must be kept separate. We

are all patients and must have our medical decisions made by those who trained to practice medicine, not by those whose only interest is their bottom line. As a senior citizen, I greatly fear what will happen to me when I need medical care if we continue on our present course with healthcare in the US. Your bill will set the gold standard for other states to follow.

Sincerely,

Patricia A Aronin, MD  
Retired pediatric neurosurgeon  
Treasurer, TX400