

Submitter: Erin Finter

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure: HB4130

I am an orthopedic surgeon and was recently an employee of an organization managed by non health care professionals. In a decision that was strictly financial and did not take patient care into account, the employer fired half of the physician assistants working in our group which rendered the surgeons unable to operate without having assistants in the OR. The PAs were not replaced and I found myself in a position where i was unable to care for patients and ultimately led to my decision to quit. I had a non compete and was forced to either get into a legal battle or not work which is ultimately what i chose yo do for 6 months. During that timeframe, the wait for a patient to be able to have joint replacement surgery (which is my specialty) grew to over 6-9 months and left a great deal of patients with pain for much longer than necessary. In addition, 4 orthopedic colleagues of mine chose to leave town to get away from the non compete and out town is now experiencing a significant deficit in orthopedic care due to the decisions made by this corporation and the ultimate failure of our orthopedic practice. The practice has now been shut down entirely in our town.