

Submitter: Michelle Smith
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: HB4130

To whom it may concern,

I am an anesthesiologist who has practiced in the Portland area for almost a decade as part of Oregon Anesthesiology Group (a local physician-owned group who has served our community for 30+ years). Last year, Providence terminated OAG's contract without cause in favor of a large national private equity backed group. Knowing that private equity favors profits over quality patient care & is associated with increased costs to patients & poorer outcomes, I made the decision to leave Providence. Since this change was made in November 2023, Providence has had trouble with anesthesia staffing at its 2 largest hospitals in Portland, leading to delays in patient care.

There is a regional & national shortage of healthcare workers (specifically anesthesia providers), but private equity is not the answer.

Thank you for your time,
Michelle Smith, MD