

Submitter: Tom Scaletta

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure: HB4130

I am a board-certified emergency physician who has practiced for over three decades. During that period, I have appreciated a steady increase in the influence of venture capital investors and corporate entities that control emergency medicine practice. When for-profit entities control staffing, policies/procedures, and the quality of the care providers, patients will be harmed.

I served as the president of the American Academy of Emergency Medicine (AAEM) from 2006-2008, and I am currently on the executive board as the past president's council representative. In this position, I hear of many examples nationwide where care has been severely degraded by the corporate practice of medicine (CPOM). Even though most states prohibit corporate entities from influencing care--e.g., setting schedules, determining the quality of the physician, and deciding the ratio of physician and non-physician practitioners--these laws are not often enforced.

It behooves Oregon legislators to prohibit corporations from practicing medicine by voting in favor of HB 4130.