







## **About Compass Oncology**

Compass Oncology is the Portland metropolitan area's trusted resource for cancer care and diseases of the blood. We provide comprehensive, leading-edge treatment incorporating the tools of evidence-based medicine, clinical trials and research studies.

Everyday our team of nearly 400 dedicated and compassionate professionals come to work committed to Compass' mission: *Together, we navigate your care close to home, every step of the way.* 

Modern cancer treatment frequently includes a combination of therapies from different specialties. The Compass Oncology team brings together leading experts in the fields of surgical, medical and radiation oncology, and palliative care to provide the most comprehensive cancer care possible and a more cohesive patient experience. Our community-based sites allow for the delivery of quality care at reduced cost relative to hospital-based oncology centers.

Compass oncologists are at the forefront of discovery. As a member of The US Oncology Network, one of the nation's largest community-based cancer treatment and research networks, Compass Oncology participates in leading-edge clinical trials through US Oncology research, which has helped develop more than 60 FDA approved cancer therapies. With 4 locations in the Portland/Vancouver metropolitan area our network of more than 37 physicians and 23 Advanced Practice Providers is collectively focused on treating cancer and blood disorders with leading-edge technology and innovative research no matter where patients live.

## **About Willamette Valley Cancer Institute and Research Center**

Founded in 1997, Willamette Valley Cancer Institute (WVCI) is an independent, physician-led practice that began in Eugene, Oregon. Its founders pioneered community-based oncology care in the southern Willamette Valley by bringing together experts in medical oncology, hematology, radiation oncology, and gynecologic oncology under one roof. Their partnership and commitment to excellence has enabled more patients to receive high-quality cancer care while staying close to home, near the critical support of family and friends. The practice has grown with the community, expanded to help other small communities in the valley by establishing community-based clinics in Albany, Corvallis, Florence, Lincoln City, Newport, and Springfield.

As a leader in innovative healthcare programs, Willamette Valley Cancer Institute has participated in value-based healthcare models to reduce the cost of care and improve population health. WVCI actively participates in national and state debates over cost of care, the cost of drugs, biosimilars, and the importance of community oncology in patient access to care and treatment.

Compass and WVCI are part of The US Oncology Network, one of the nation's largest networks of independent, integrated, community-based oncology practices dedicated to advancing high-quality, evidence-based cancer care. The Network unites like-minded physicians and clinicians around a common vision of expanding patient access to the highest quality state-of-the-art care close to home, and at lower costs for patients and the health care system. The practices in The Network treat approximately 850,000 cancer patients annually in more than 400 locations across 27 states.



## **OPPOSE HB 4130 and Protect Patient Care and Physician Autonomy**

HB 4130, if passed, will have far-reaching and detrimental consequences for community cancer in Oregon. It threatens to hinder physicians' ability to provide quality care. As stakeholders deeply invested in healthcare excellence and our communities, we strongly oppose this legislation for several compelling reasons.

Threat to Independent Physician Practices: The challenges of maintaining independent physician-owned practices amidst pressures from hospitals and health plans are immense. Our longstanding partnership with The US Oncology Network has been pivotal, allowing for physician autonomy and improved patient access to state-of-the-art technology, ground-breaking clinical trials, and life-saving treatments. However, this bill threatens to disrupt decades-long relationships and adversely affect capital-intensive community cancer centers. It will drive local providers and their patients towards hospitals where costs and out-of-pocket liability are significantly higher. This double whammy could quickly lead to increased costs and fragmentation of care contradicting the state's legislative goals. WVCI and Compass Oncology have a 25+ year relationship with The US Oncology Network. HB 4130 risks disrupting these invaluable partnerships built over decades.

Restriction of Management Services Organizations (MSOs): We believe HB 4130's broad language effectively prohibits existing MSOs from operating in the state. MSOs are indispensable in supporting the administrative functions of physician practices, allowing physicians to focus on patient care. Our MSO partner has played a crucial role in maintaining our independence, practice ownership, and competitiveness against large health systems. Passage of this bill would severely impede our ability to access necessary resources, compromising patient care, especially during crises like COVID-19.

**Disruption to Community Cancer Centers:** Community-based oncology clinics, essential for delivering quality care, operate as capital-intensive enterprises. The costs of running such centers, including maintaining substantial drug inventories and facility expenses, are staggering. Significantly restricting patient-focused capital partners, as proposed in HB 4130, would drive local providers towards hospitals, contrary to the legislation's intended goal of reducing costs and maintaining care quality. This shift would inevitably lead to higher costs and compromised care for cancer patients in our communities.

Impact on Research and Clinical Trials: Research, particularly access to life-saving clinical trials, is pivotal in cancer care. Our partnership with The US Oncology Network and the Sarah Cannon Research Institute (SCRI) has facilitated such access, enhancing patient outcomes. However, HB 4130 threatens to prohibit our involvement with SCRI and restrict our ability to offer cutting-edge treatments to our patients, further compromising their well-being.

We urge the State of Oregon to reconsider the implications of HB 4130 on community cancer centers and the thousands of patients we serve annually. By evaluating the downstream effects of this legislation, lawmakers can ensure that patient care, physician autonomy, and access to life-saving treatments remain uncompromised. Together, let's prioritize the well-being of Oregonians and preserve the integrity of our healthcare system.