

Submitter: Daniel Surdam
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: HB4130

Dear Senators,

I'm writing to express my opposition to HB 4130.

When we were called to the practice of medicine, there was no discussion on the business of medicine. We were all called for different reasons, but above all, it was to help those in need and who were suffering from illness or injury. Over the course of my career, I have owned my own practice, worked for large and small hospital systems, both non-profit and for profit, and one thing that became abundantly clear, in order to provide the care that was necessary, you had to be able to understand the business of medicine. Over the past 25 years, healthcare has become increasingly complex and difficult to navigate independently. Reimbursement for our services continually decreases while the cost of doing business continually increases. By joining forces with others, we are able to navigate these challenges while we focus on what matters, taking care of patients.

This particular piece of legislation is misguided, and it seems to target private equity backed companies. I fear it will have far and wide unintended consequences. It really does not address large health/hospital systems or insurance companies who have been gobbling up provider practices and consolidating them. The bill states private equity limits competition and increases cost; but anyone who has worked in the space knows there is much more to the story; data shows that hospitals and health systems who buy practices can control referrals and demand higher prices.

Why would Hospital systems and insurance companies be exempt? Have the impacts of being able to provide telemedicine/remote services been considered, as many of those companies are supported by and stood up by private equity funding and management.

The reality of medicine today is nothing less than a complex and often broken system. However, the value brought by Community Care Partners to our provider groups and communities we serve has been noteworthy, allowing us to focus on taking care of our patients reaching into all corners of Oregon. While no company is perfect, I can say without a doubt that Community Care Partners in no way has ever tried to interfere with the care that we are provide to our patients and delivers on their mission and purpose by making sure we have the tools and resources to be successful.

If passed, this legislation will effectively decrease healthcare options, limit competition and referral channels, and in doing so will increase the cost of care, decrease access to care, decrease innovation when it is sorely needed. I would urge you all to vote against this piece of legislation.

Thank you for your time, and please don't hesitate to reach out if you should have any questions for me.

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