



**Oregon Chapter  
American College of  
Emergency Physicians**

**Date:** March 4, 2024

**To:** Sen. Kate Leiber, Chair  
Sen. Tim Knopp, Vice-Chair  
Members of the Senate Rules Committee

**From:** John Moorhead, MD, FACEP  
Oregon Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians

**Subject:** HB 4130, Corporate Practice of Medicine

Chair Lieber, Vice Chair Knopp, and members of the committee, please accept this statement for the record on behalf of OR-ACEP, the Oregon Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians. OR-ACEP is a medical society that has represented physicians specializing in emergency medicine since 1971 and its members share a commitment to improve emergency healthcare for all Oregonians.

OR-ACEP strongly supports HB 4130A, which aligns with [ACEP's policies](#) in regard to the corporate practice of medicine. HB 4130-A is, at its core, legislation that closes loopholes in Oregon's Corporate Practice of Medicine law to protect the relationship between the clinician and patient from outside monied and profit-driven interests.

Law firms are prohibited from having non-attorney ownership or investment and revenue-sharing. Why should physician practices be any different?

Sadly, the landscape of medicine has drastically changed in the last 10-20 years where now venture capital and private equity are rapidly buying parts of the healthcare infrastructure. Private equity extracts profits from businesses for their shareholders and Wall Street. Those profits come from several places: increased costs (increased testing, treatments, procedures and up-charges), decreased expenses (cuts to clinician pay amongst many options), and “increasing efficiency” and forcing physicians to do more with less — a worrisome proposition with a thinly stretched and severely burned-out post-pandemic workforce.

**Chapter President-** Craig Rudy, MD, FACEP

**Chapter Executive-** Sierra Acker

**President-Elect-** Christian Smith, MD, FACEP **Government Relations Director-** Katy King



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The relationship between patient and physician is sacred because we uphold the beneficial interest and autonomy of the patient as most important. OR-ACEP believes this is the doctor and patient relationship is the center of medicine. Clinical decisions should only be made by a physician or a NP/PA for diagnostic tests and treatment, referrals or consultations with other specialists, responsibility for the management of the patient's care.

We want to acknowledge it is challenging for many physicians to own their practices with the burden of extreme medical school debt and burdensome state and federal regulation, not to mention, administrative costs. This bill will help preserve local and community control.

This bill does not address the reasons why physicians are selling practices. It simply stems the tide of corporate ownership. We must ensure that Oregon physicians can sustain their independent and locally owned practices that serve our communities. We need to address the terrible workforce shortages that are grinding on us every day – worsening burnout and leading more to retire and move from Oregon. We desperately must attract and support more physicians, particularly to rural parts of the state.

Please support HB 4130-A and protect the patient-physician relationship by keeping corporate ownership out of physician practices.

Thank you for your consideration.

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