

Submitter: Ryan Kearney  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure: HB4130

My name is Ryan Kearney and I'm a pediatrician in Bend. I am writing in SUPPORT of HB4130. When I began my journey to become a well-trained, compassionate, motivated and above all, excellent physician, I did so because I cared. I wanted to understand illness, help others, ease suffering, better lives in my community and do so while making myself and my spheres of influence smile while living healthfully. Fast forward 20 years and it's quite disheartening that corporate, for-profit healthcare certainly doesn't care in the way that wide-eyed 20-something year old version of myself and most of my peers had back then. Every organization I have worked for since completing my medical training has required that I sign binding non-compete and arbitration agreements. The net effect of such contracts is that physicians either accept any terms of employment, whether patient centric or not, or simply move their entire lives, often hundreds or more miles away, uprooting spouses, children and families. Physicians have little say but to accept terms of employment, perhaps assenting to care practices that might not necessarily be paramount for our patients or our communities, but are required based on any number of contracts we are beholden to. I have had aspirations to practice medicine the way my family, my friends, my community deserves. The cost and time of medical training are already prohibitive enough to squash most entrepreneurial aspirants. These contracts seal the deal for most everyone else except for the exceedingly naive, the daringly brave or the uniquely talented amongst us. Medical training is so rote and standardized that most large medical systems can simply substitute a similar excellent physician 'cog' into their machine when any individual doctor chooses to go their own way. Unfortunately, the converse is not true. Our medical system limps along because of the altruism, the dedication to patients and the abundant excellence of those working in the field. Physicians want and deserve to own the excellence that many of us have made countless sacrifices to attain and to maintain -- birthdays, weddings, funerals, vacations, relationships, bed time stories are all just a sample of the personal sacrifices and losses we make continually in the name of patient care. Shame on the corporate boardrooms, the private equity pilferers, and our elected officials for making and/or taking advantage of these absurd and prohibitive non-compete causes. Additionally, the shadowy, pseudo-ethical ownership structures that have intertwined private equity profiteering with medical care must stop. I have yet to speak with a physician across the country that disagrees. Oregon can be a thought leader for the country to change this status quo, one that currently benefits very few. So, I beseech you to please help make a difference, vote for HB4130, and watch what stifled innovation finally released can do for our healthcare system in our state. It might just make you smile. Thank you.