

Esteemed Members of the Senate Rules Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to give testimony **in favor of HB4130**, a crucial piece of legislation that strengthens patient care and promotes patient choice and access to care within Oregon's healthcare system.

I am a sub-specialist physician, caring for the elderly and vision impaired of Oregon.

Currently, non-compete agreements severely restrict physicians' ability to practice medicine. **Physician non-compete 'agreements' serve only one group: big business and corporations seeking to dictate healthcare for their own advantage, not for patient's well-being.** This practice has a detrimental impact on Oregonians' access to quality healthcare in several ways:

- **Limited Choice:** Non-compete agreements restrict patients' ability to choose or continue with the doctor they trust and have a relationship with. If their preferred physician leaves a practice, they are forced to see a new doctor or drive some times hundreds of miles to see their same trusted specialist. Some are forced to see another doctor with whom they have no trust.
- **Reduced Competition:** These agreements limit competition among healthcare providers, which can lead to higher costs and lower quality of care. With fewer options, patients have less leverage to negotiate costs or demand better service.
- **Physician Mobility:** Non-compete agreements stifle innovation and professional growth. Physicians are less likely to pursue new opportunities, hindering advancements in treatment and patient care. This makes recruiting physicians to Oregon much more difficult than in states where non-compete agreements are unenforceable.

HB4130 stands to rectify these issues. By limiting non-compete agreements for physicians, we can:

- **Empower Patients:** Patients deserve the freedom to choose their physician based on trust and experience, not geographic limitations. This bill fosters a patient-centered approach where choice and continuity of care are prioritized.

- **Promote Competition:** A more competitive healthcare market incentivizes providers to offer better quality care at lower costs. This benefits Oregonians by driving down healthcare expenses and improving overall service.
- **Attract and Retain Talent:** Oregon will become a more attractive destination for skilled physicians seeking professional freedom and the ability to serve patients without corporate restrictions.

Opponents may argue that this bill weakens existing practices. However, the **current system prioritizes corporate profit over patient well-being.**

HB4130 simply ensures that physicians can prioritize their patients' needs without undue corporate influence.

Furthermore, concerns about physician poaching can be addressed by focusing on fair compensation and fostering a positive work environment. A physician who is valued is less likely to leave a practice simply because they can move elsewhere.

In conclusion, **HB4130 represents a step towards a stronger, more patient-centered healthcare system in Oregon.** By fostering competition, empowering patients, and attracting top medical talent, this bill will ultimately benefit the health and well-being of all Oregonians.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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