

March 21, 2025

Dear Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Javadi and Nelson, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 3225, which aims to ensure that professional corporations practicing medicine in Oregon are predominantly controlled by licensed physicians. This legislation is crucial for maintaining the integrity of patient care and safeguarding the interests of both patients and healthcare providers.

Nationally, healthcare consolidation has been linked to increased costs and reduced access to care. Studies have shown that hospital mergers often lead to higher prices for services without corresponding improvements in care quality. Additionally, such consolidations can suppress wages and reduce employment opportunities for clinicians and support staff, contributing to job dissatisfaction and burnout.

In Oregon, the impact of healthcare costs is particularly pronounced. Between 2013 and 2019, spending on healthcare increased by approximately 50%, averaging a 7% annual rise. This escalation places a significant financial burden on individuals and families, potentially limiting access to necessary care.

The economic implications extend beyond individual expenditures. Chronic diseases impose substantial costs on Oregon's economy. From 2016 to 2030, chronic conditions are projected to cost the state \$534 billion, or 14% of our annual GDP, with annual losses of \$9.9 billion in employee productivity. These figures highlight the broader economic impact of health issues, affecting workforce productivity and, consequently, state GDP and tax revenues.

Comparatively, Wisconsin has demonstrated a proactive approach to healthcare management. The state has implemented policies aimed at improving access to care and controlling costs, resulting in a more efficient healthcare system. This efficiency contributes to better health outcomes and economic stability, underscoring the importance of state-level interventions in healthcare policy.

By enacting HB 3225, Oregon has the opportunity to emulate such successes. Ensuring that medical decisions are made by qualified physicians can lead to more personalized care, potentially improving health outcomes and reducing costs. This, in turn, could alleviate the economic burdens associated with chronic diseases and enhance overall productivity, positively influencing the state's GDP and tax receipts.

I urge you to support HB 3225 to protect the integrity of our healthcare system and promote the well-being of both patients and providers in Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel P. Isaacson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "I".

Daniel P. Isaacson