



February 5, 2026

Senate Committee on Ways & Means  
SHR 4  
J.A. Cherberg Building  
Olympia, WA

**RE: Senate Committee on Ways & Means Hearing on SB 5387**

Dear Chair Robinson and Honorable Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in support of SB 5387**, which helps ensure that decisions impacting Washingtonian's health care services are made by licensed medical providers, not corporate entities. United States of Care (USofCare) is a non-partisan, non-profit organization working to ensure [everyone](#) has access to quality, affordable health care, regardless of health status, social need, or income. We work in states across the country to develop pragmatic policy solutions that are designed to respond to the needs of people. We often hold up Washington as a leader in addressing affordability and access issues for health care consumers.

[Most states](#) have corporate practice of medicine (CPOM) laws on the books to prohibit corporations and other non-physician entities from taking over medical practices and substantially changing how providers practice medicine. This ensures that clinical decision-making is made in the best interest of patients rather than the interests of financial investors. [Increased health care consolidation](#) over the past few decades has offered the opportunity for corporate actors to become increasingly involved in health care – between 2012 and 2021, private equity acquisitions of physician practices [increased](#) by 645%. **This rise in corporate health care ownership comes with the need to protect patients from rising concerns around its negative impact on [patient safety](#), [quality](#), and [access to care](#). Corporate ownership is also associated with [increased costs](#) for people, exacerbating the health care affordability issues Washingtonians are [already struggling with](#).**

Washington's [Corporate Practice of Medicine \(CPOM\) Doctrine](#) was enacted as a means to make sure doctors, not corporations, were in charge of medical practices and patient care. However, the recent proliferation of arrangements with corporate-owned physician management vendors, coupled with loopholes in Washington's Corporate Practice of Medicine doctrine, means the role of these vendors has evolved beyond patient scheduling and billing to setting clinical operations processes and procedures that ultimately harm patients.

**SB 5387 provides an opportunity to provide helpful guardrails to better safeguard patient care and ensure meaningful protections for Washingtonians from the negative impacts of corporate pressure.** Similar to efforts in at least [eight other states](#) this

legislative session, and following the lead of neighboring [Oregon](#), this legislation closes most of the loopholes which allow third party vendors the ability to exert control over physician's clinical decision-making, keeping physicians in control of their practices and care delivery. Additionally, it eliminates the tactics used by corporate entities to trap providers in harmful contracts, and provides legal protections for providers who speak up about unsafe practices detrimental to patient care. Notably, SB 5387 **does not** ban private investments in health care, but rather prioritizes patient treatment over return on investment.

**For these reasons, and on behalf of United States of Care, I encourage the Committee to vote “yes” in support of SB 5387.** I thank the Committee for its work on this issue and urge you to consider United States of Care as a resource moving forward.

Sincerely,

Kelsey Wulfsuhle  
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