

Sent: Friday, June 05, 2015 10:30 AM
To: KEELING Ryan W * DCBS
Cc: REP Barnhart; SEN Prozanski; REP Hoyle; kitty.piercy@ci.eugene.or.us
Subject: Keeping health care local and not-for-profit

Dear Mr. Keeling,

As a registered Oregon Health ID cardholder since January 9, 2015, I would like to voice my objection to the out-of-state proposed buyout of Trillium, as reported in today's Register-Guard newspaper by Sherri MacDonald (June 5, 2015, pp. A1 and A8).

The system is already not functioning well. As a client, I have personally been unable to contact Trillium by phone and have been unable to verify whether I even have a primary care physician. Thankfully, I am in good health. I am somewhat more confident that in the case of emergency I could avail myself of ER services and would be covered to some extent. But my own difficulties navigating the system strongly indicate to me that the system itself--as managed currently by Trillium--is not working well for the poor and large client base it is supposed to serve. Selling this to an out of state company/corporation would be a further step backwards. In my opinion, health care should stay local, as much as possible. As Rep. Phil Barnhart says: "Our theory in setting up the local CCOs was that they be local and respond to local needs and conditions."

I also agree with Priscilla Gould's concerns as expressed in the newspaper article. I am troubled that an out of state corporation will seek to maximize profit from the health care of the lowest income Oregonians. This sets up uneven competition between powerful out of state profit extraction and the disempowered personal care of poor Oregonians. That's an opposition we don't want or need, and we all know who wins that game.

I urge you and other legislators to keep Oregon health care local, as much as possible. There is already a good deal of work to be done to improve the existing system without moving it out of state.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

René Salm, esq.
Eugene OR 97401