



Opposition to proposed takeover of Legacy Health by OHSU

United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555 represents frontline healthcare workers at Legacy Health. We are writing to oppose the proposed takeover of Legacy Health by Oregon Health and Science University.

This corporate takeover will ultimately worsen patient care and reduce accountability in ways that are even now evident among OHSU's current business model. A consolidation of two such significant health care systems necessarily reduces competition and patient choice as well as further monopolizes the labor market. Last year, the Legislature considered curtailing the private-sector consolidation of healthcare providers, with supporters of the measure pointing out that under corporate consolidation, "prices go up, both for payers and patients, on the order of 20 to 30%." Further, OHSU's own recent record demonstrates that those increased costs will not be invested in patient care or workforce, but in a top-heavy management structure. Just this past year, OHSU's plan to save costs was to cut hundreds of jobs from the ground-level workforce while showering top executives, some of whom already make over \$1 million a year, with \$15 million worth of non-performance based bonuses.

OHSU's business model is staggeringly troubling when applied to the healthcare sector. It avails itself of the financing advantages of a public entity, but with none of the usual accountability or transparency. This is not a model we need to see more of in healthcare.

Please oppose this takeover.

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