

Public Comments

The [Health Care Market Oversight](#) (HCMO) program reviews proposed health care business deals to make sure they support Oregon's goals of health equity, lower costs, increased access, and better care. This document presents public comments related to the HCMO review of 040 Samaritan-Santiam. OHA accepted public comments during the preliminary review period. Public comments were received via email to hcmo.info@oha.oregon.gov, voicemail, or by filling out the [Public Comment Form](#). Comments are presented below in the order received and may include typos or misspellings. Personal contact information for individuals has been removed.

OHA expresses no views on the substance of these comments, and their publication does not constitute an endorsement by OHA of the views expressed.

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1. No subject, 12/17/24

I've been told that this merger will not negatively affect community services, but I'd like to better understand how a monopoly can be advantageous for patient care? Right now, Samaritan no longer accepts United Healthcare insurance, while Santiam still does. After the merger, where will United Healthcare patients go for care? Numerous studies show that hospital prices and profits tend to increase in markets with less competition, and this merger seems to be creating a de facto monopoly. The "non-profit" status doesn't change the fact that the additional profits will likely be used for high executive salaries and unnecessary upgrades rather than addressing immediate community needs. Samaritan needs competition, and the community deserves choices when it comes to healthcare.

Kristin Thompson

About HCMO

The Healthcare Market Oversight Program reviews proposed health care business deals to make sure they support statewide goals related to cost, equity, access, and quality. For more info, you can connect with HCMO staff:

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