

Widespread Violations of Prohibitions on the Corporate Practice of Medicine

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Take Medicine Back and Coalition Request North Carolina Investigation on lack of enforcement of the Corporate Practice of Medicine by NC Attorneys General Joshua Stein

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Take Medicine Back, with a coalition of local and national organizations have written to North Carolina Attorneys General Josh Stein, who is also the president-elect of the National Association of Attorneys Generals, requesting an investigation into the widespread violations of the prohibition on the Corporate Practice of Medicine (CPOM) in North Carolina, and consider leading a multi-state investigation into widespread lack of enforcement of CPOM laws in the United States. The majority of states have enacted laws prohibiting the corporate practice of medicine due to concerns articulated by the American Medical Association that "Allowing corporations to practice medicine or employ physicians will result in the commercialization of the practice of medicine." that "...a corporation's obligation to its shareholders may not align with a physician's obligation to [their] patients, and" that "employment of a physician by a corporation may interfere with the physician's independent medical judgment."

According to the North Carolina Attorneys General in 1955, "A private corporation is prohibited from practicing medicine, and employment by a corporation of a physician or surgeon to treat the ill in order that the corporation may profit therefrom is prohibited by the laws of North Carolina. Through a series of deceptive legal loopholes and shell corporations, corporate entities including private equity Wall Street firms now own an estimated 40% or more of physicians in emergency departments, determining staffing and influence medical decision making through perverse incentives and intimidation of job-loss, prioritizing profits over patients. This is enabled by joint ventures with hospital systems, both for-profit and tax-exempt, that contract with these corporate groups. A prominent example of this locally in NC and nationally is the Hospital Corporation of America (HCA), a for-profit hospital system that contracts with TeamHealth, a staffing firm owned by the private-equity firm Blackstone. TeamHealth is well known for pioneering out-of-network "Surprise" billing as well as suing and garnishing the wages of the working poor, while leaving the physicians and non-physicians that they employ without billing transparency and without due-process rights.

Take Medicine Back is a Public Benefit Company founded in June of 2021 by a practicing emergency physician, charged with "producing a public benefit by operating in a responsible and ethical manner by imparting education and advocacy to the public regarding the corporate takeover of modern medicine..." We believe that this has resulted in the financial exploitation of patients, an ongoing loss of the profession of medicine, and the erosion of trust and a therapeutic relationship between patients and physicians. This coalition of organizations includes the American Academy of Emergency Medicine - Resident Student Association, the American Academy of Emergency Medicine, The Americans for Financial Reform, The Free2Care Coalition, Physicians for Patient Protection, American Economic Liberties Project, Louisiana Physicians for Patients, and the Texas Physicians for Patients PAC.

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